History of the English Language

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Assumptions

About The Course

- This is a survey of a very large topic
  - Course will be a mixture of history and language
- Concentrate on what is most relevant
  - We live in USA
  - We were colonies of Great Britain until 1776
- English is the dominant language in
  - United Kingdom of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
  - Former Colonies: USA, Canada, Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and several smaller scattered colonies

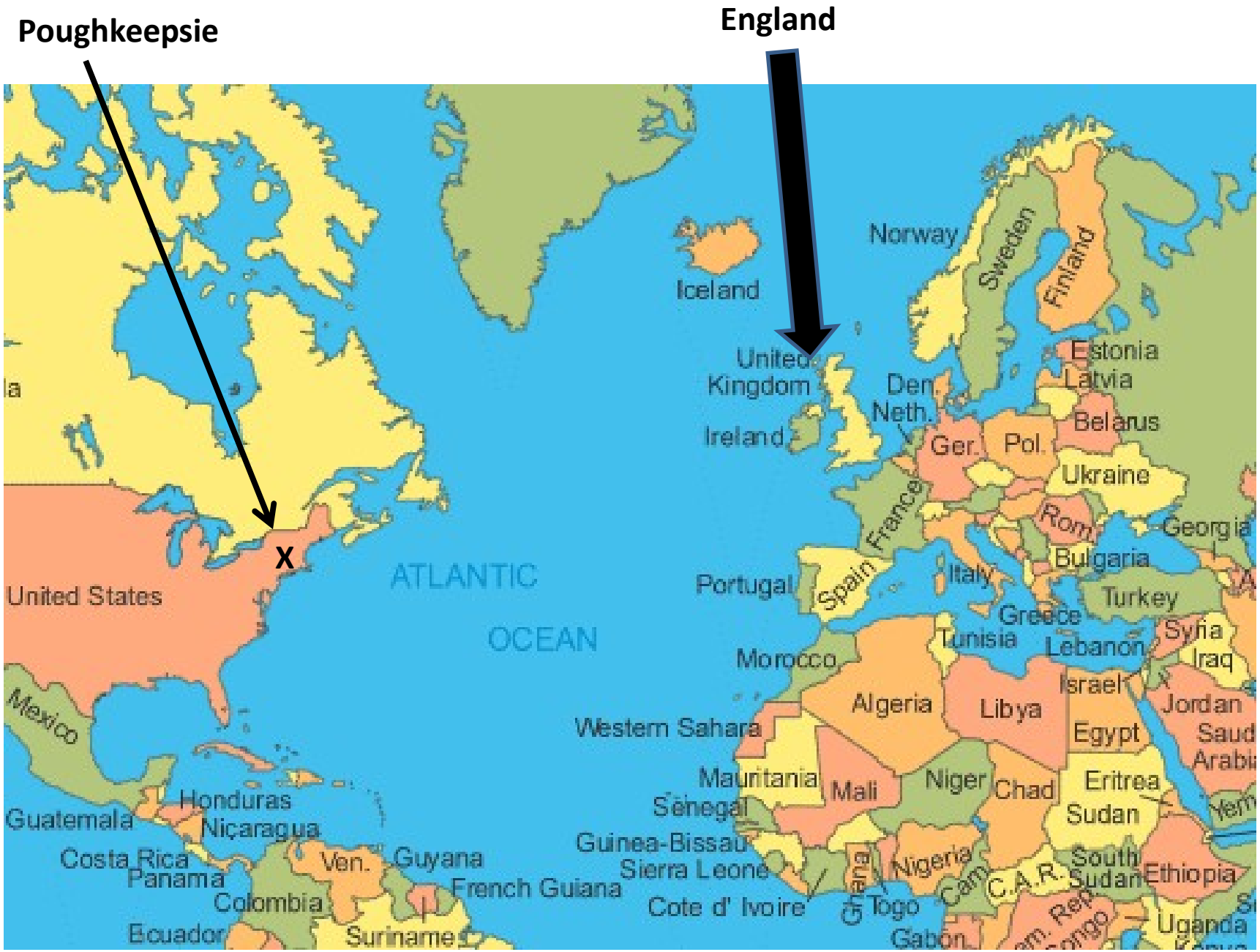
Arbitrary English Language Periods
- Course Outline -

Period	Dates
Old English	450 CE to 1066 CE
Middle English	1066 CE to 1450 CE
Early Modern English	1450 CE to 1700 CE
Modern English	1700 CE to present

Note:

- These periods overlap.
- There is not a distinct break.
- It's an evolution.

Geography


Poughkeepsie
England
X
United States
ATLANTIC
OCEAN
Iceland
Norway
Sweden
Finland
United Kingdom
Ireland
Den.
Neth.
Ger.
Pol.
Estonia
Latvia
Belarus
Ukraine
France
Rom.
Georgia
Bulgaria
Portugal
Spain
Italy
Turkey
Greece
Tunisia
Lebanon
Syria
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Saud
Arabia
Morocco
Western Sahara
Algeria
Libya
Egypt
Mauritania
Mali
Niger
Chad
Eritrea
Sudan
Senegal
Guinea-Bissau
Sierra Leone
Nigeria
South Sudan
Ethiopia
Cote d' Ivoire
Ghana
Togo
Cam.
C.A.R.
Gabon
Uganda
Mexico
Honduras
Guatemala
Niçaragua
Costa Rica
Panama
Ven.
Guyana
French Guiana
Colombia
Ecuador
Suriname

"England": not to be confused with British Isles, Great Britain or the United Kingdom

Kingdom of England
- England (927)
- add Wales (1342)

Kingdom of Great Britain
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- All of the British Isles

United Kingdom of GrB and Northern Ireland (1922)
- less the Republic of Ireland

Language in General

What is a Language?

A language is an oral system of communication:

- **Used by the people of a particular region**
- **Consisting of a set of sounds (pronunciation)**
  - **Vocabulary, Grammar**
- **Used for speaking and listening**

Until 1877 there was no method for recording speech and listening to it later.

- **Thank-you Thomas Edison**
- **No one really knows exactly what spoken English sounded like before 1877**

What about written records?

A set of written symbols (alphabet) which are used to approximately record oral language:

- **Writing is NOT language, but a code to represent spoken language**
- **Schools try to teach the "correct" language and "correct" spelling.**
- **Written language is much more formal than spoken**

What is standard English?

- Depends on where you live -

- **USA: Standard American English / Schoolroom English / Evening News English.**
- **United Kingdom: Queen's English / BBC English / "Received Pronunciation".**
- **Canada**
- **Australia**
- **New Zealand**

Dialects
- Somewhat Confusing -

A language is a dialect with an army and navy.

- **The dominant dialect of the language**

Dialects are mutually intelligible varieties of a specific language that are used by particular groups of the language's speakers

- **Differences: in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation**
- **Non Standard American English Dialects: Black English, Pennsylvania Dutch English, Cajun Vernacular English, Hawaiian Pidgin English, Chicano English, etc.**

Accents: a way of speaking typical of a particular group of people and of a region. An accent is not a dialect.

- **US Presidential Accents: FDR, JFK, LBJ, Clinton, Bush Jr.**

Written English: Spelling Difficulties

Here is the math:

- **26 Letters in our written Alphabet (Latin Alphabet)**
- **45 Sounds in Modern spoken English**
- **200 ways to Spell those 45 Sounds using our written alphabet**

Fact: spelling and pronunciation are very different today

- **You can't be sure how to spell a word when your hear it spoken (pronounced)**
- **You can't be sure how to speak (pronounce) a word when you see it written (spelled)**

How the English Language Began

Nothing to Do With English Language

- Prehistoric England: Stonehenge, etc.
- Celtic Inhabitation of the land we call England
- Roman Occupation of the land we call England

Headline: 450 AD

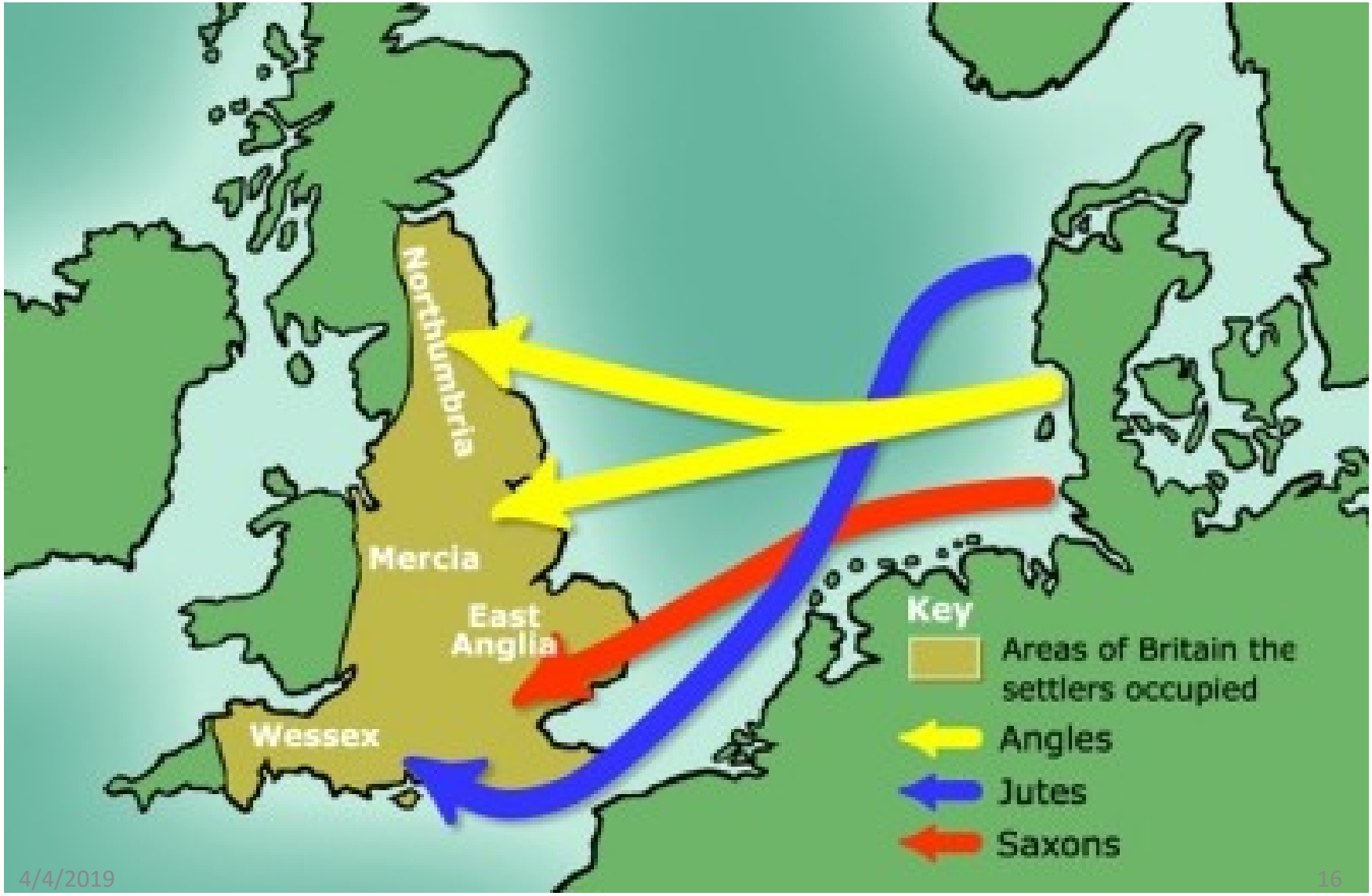
Germanic People invade England

- Celtic language and culture wiped out in England
- Germanic dialects used throughout England
- Old German Dialects → Old English Dialects
- Historians call all these German people

  "Saxons" or "Anglo-Saxons"
- Anglo-Saxons came from today's Denmark, Germany and Holland

Where did the German peoples come from?

Today's Netherlands, Southern Denmark & Northern Germany



People History: Anglo-Saxons

- German folks invaded and settled in England starting in 450 AD. They took over all of modern England
  - Anglo-Saxons = a mix of Germanic peoples
  - Almost no Celtic words survive in Modern English
    - Like Native American languages here in USA
    - The Celts were killed, enslaved or driven out.
- Most of England's early history comes down to us from the Venerable Bede, an English Benedictine monk (672 - 735 CE).
  - Bede wrote 350 years after the fact

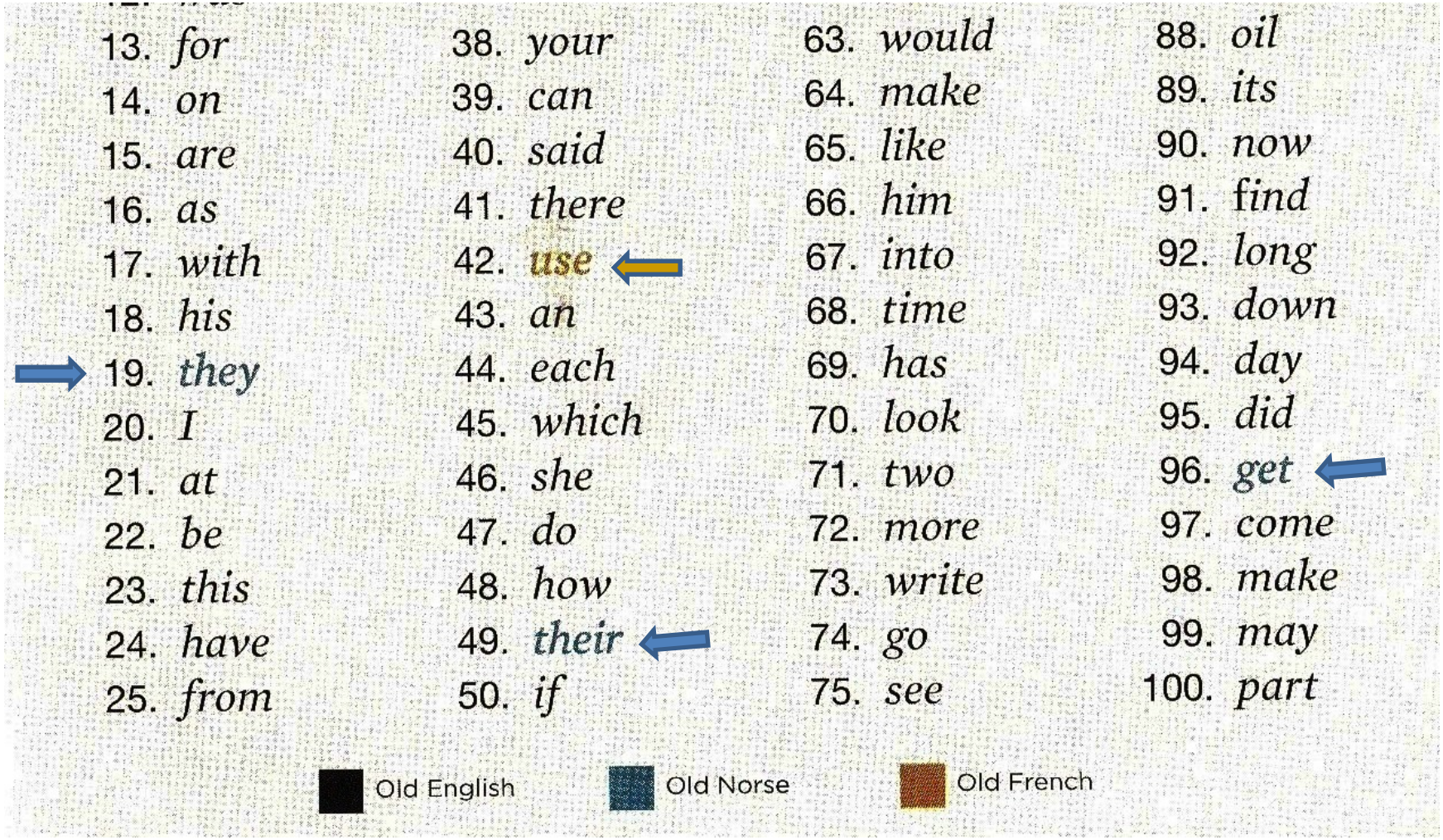
English is a Germanic Language

- German Grammar
- Most of the small commonly used words are of German origin
- Huge addition of French and Latin Vocabulary
  - Most of the big words are French or Latin
- New words constantly added
  - Cell Phone, Text Message, email, Personal Computer, Reboot, Colonoscopy, etc, etc.
- Germans adopted the Latin Alphabet after Christianity arrived around 600 CE

THE 100 MOST COMMONLY USED ENGLISH WORDS AND THEIR ORIGINS

1. *the*
2. *of*
3. *and*
4. *a*
5. *to*
6. *in*
7. *is*
8. *you*
9. *that*
10. *it*
11. *he*
12. *was*
26. *or*
27. *one*
28. *had*
29. *by*
30. *word*
31. *but*
32. *not*
33. *what*
34. *all*
35. *were*
36. *we*
37. *when*
51. *will*
52. *up*
53. *other*
54. *about*
55. *out*
56. *many*
57. *then*
58. *them*
59. *these*
60. *so*
61. *some*
62. *her*
76. *number*
77. *no*
78. *way*
79. *could*
80. *people*
81. *my*
82. *than*
83. *first*
84. *water*
85. *been*
86. *call*
87. *who*

Old Norse **Old French**



Old Norse **Old French**

Old Names Survive

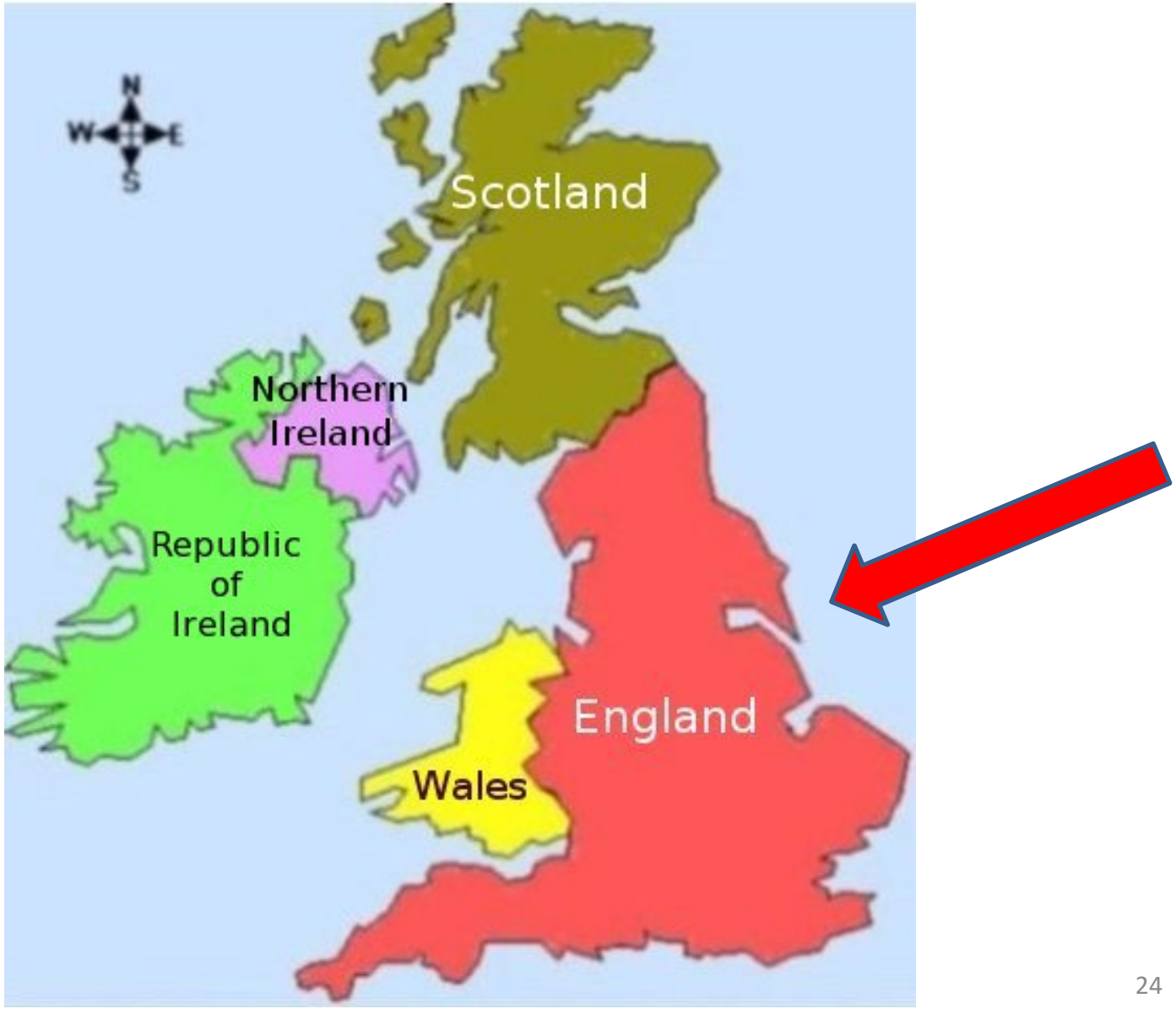
- **Britons** (aka: Celts): Great **Britain**
- **Angles**: East Anglia, **England**
- **Saxons**
  - **Wessex**: West Saxons
  - **Essex**: East Saxons
  - **Sussex**: South Saxons

?? Questions ??

- **What happened to the Britons (Celts) and their language in England?**
  - **The survivors fled west to Wales, north to Scotland and East to Brittany (in France).**
- **When did the Old German dialects become Old English dialects?**
  - **No one really knows. The German dialects evolved in England and scholars called them Old English dialects.**
- **Why is the Roman province and modern England approximately the same land mass?**
  - **Mountains to the west cut off Wales**
  - **Mountains to the north cut off Scotland**

Topographic Map

“England” in RED



Vikings – Danes

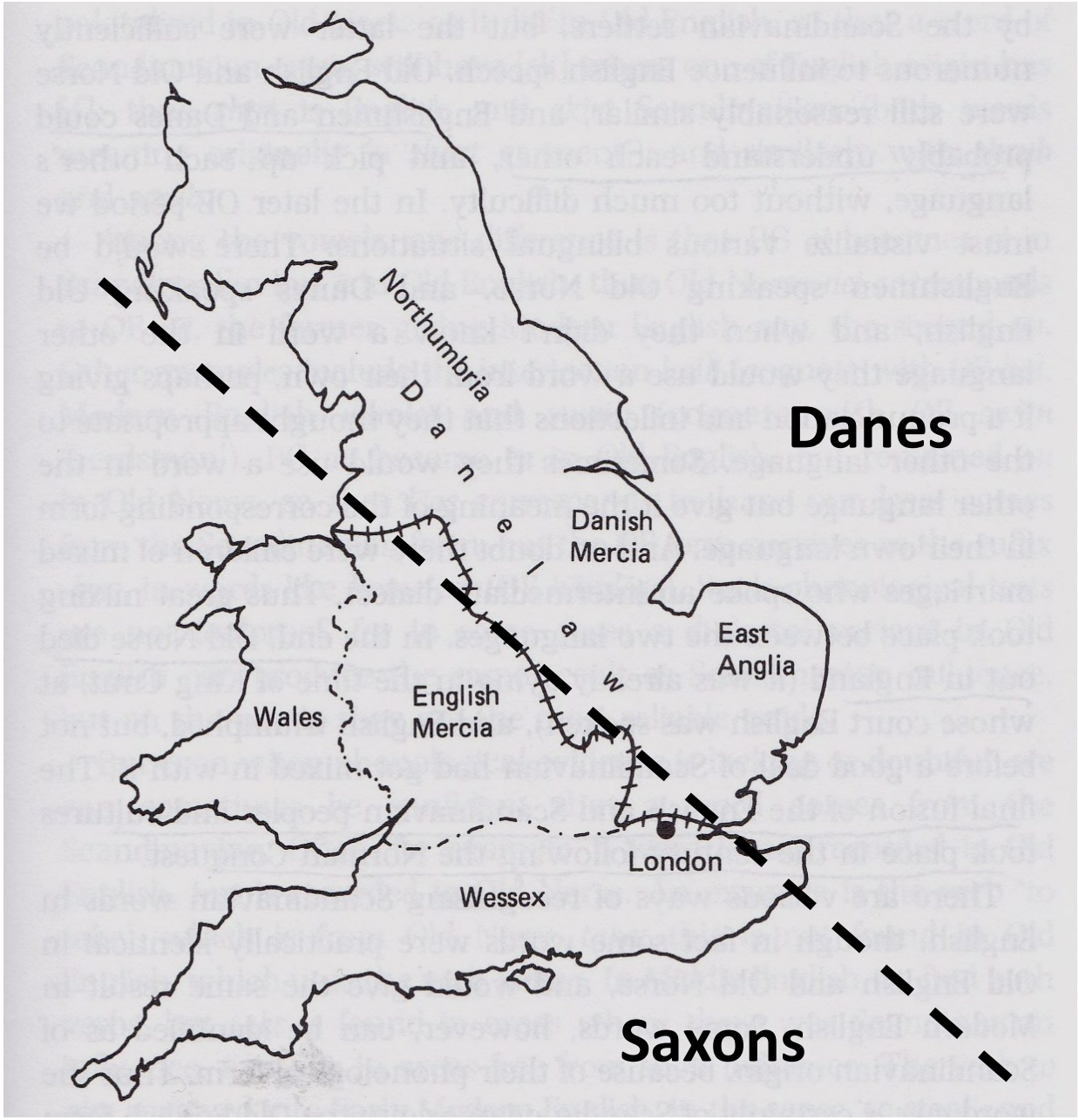
Headline: 865 AD

Vikings invade England

(400 Years Later)

- Vikings almost conquered all of England
  - Vikings spoke a North German language: Old Norse
- Old English absorbed & mixed with Old Norse
- Historians call all Scandinavians "Danes" or Norsemen or Vikings
- Old English and Old Norse were not mutually intelligible languages
  - They were similar and "merged" through time, trade, politics, assimilation and the next invasion

Danelaw – 886 AD – Old Norse



Alfred the Great: King of the West Saxons

- **The Vikings came very close to conquering all of England**
- **King Alfred of Wessex (Southern England) defeated the Vikings and England was partitioned**
  - **North and East: mix of Old English and Old Norse**
  - **South: Old English**
- **History flipped between the Danes and the Anglo-Saxons a few times after Alfred**
  - **Alfred's grandson regained all of England in 925 AD**
- **The Kingdom of England became a unified sovereign state in 927, when it emerged from various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms under King Æthelstan (r. 927–939) who had been King of Wessex.**
- **Edward the Confessor was the last Anglo-Saxon & House of Wessex King of England (ruled from 1042 to 1066).**

Review

- Language is spoken
  - Language may be written using an alphabet
  - Sound Recording began in 1877
- History
  - Anglo-Saxon Invasion starting around 450 AD
  - Dane Invasion and occupation in 865 AD
  - England became a unified kingdom in 927 CE.
- Geography
  - England has been a distinct entity since Roman times
  - England is not Scotland, Wales or Ireland

Videos for Session 1

- **Turn on subtitles**
  - **Main Menu, Setup, Subtitles=ON**
  - **Back to Main Menu, then Scene Index**
- **Disk 1 Episode 1**
- **Scenes 2, 3, 4 (24 minutes)**
  2. **Saxons**
  3. **Celts**
  4. **Beowulf**

End of Class 1

Session 2: Old English

- **Old English is a very foreign language**
- **Details of Old English: an inflected language**
  - **Lots of word endings that carry meaning**
- **Examples of Old English poetry:**
  - **Beowulf**

References

- The Adventure of English by Melvin Bragg, 2003, Arcade Publishing – New York
  - Including Video Set
- A History of the English Language by Albert C. Baugh & Thomas Cable, Fifth Edition, 2002, Routledge – New York & London
- The Mother Tongue by Bill Bryson, 1990, William Morrow – New York
- The Story of English by William McCrum, William Cran and Robert MacNeil, 1986, Penguin Books – New York

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Anglo-Saxons and the Latin Alphabet

- **Latin Alphabet: 21 letters.**
  - **a b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q r s t u and x**
    - **There was no j, v, w, y, z**
  - **Anglo-Saxons didn't need (k and q)**
- **Anglo Saxons added new letters for unique sounds in their language:**
  - **æ 'ash': roughly representing a sound between 'a' and 'e'.**
  - **ƿ 'wynn': "w" sounds**
  - **þ 'thorn': "th" sound in thin**
  - **ð 'eth': "th" sound in this**
- **Anglo-Saxon Alphabet had "about" 23 letters**

Beowulf: very foreign language

Gewát ðá néosian
héän húses·
æfter béorþege
fand þá ðaér inne
swefan æfter symble·
wonsceaft wera·
grim ond graédig
réoc ond réþe
þrítig þegna·
húðe hrémig

syþðan niht becóm
hú hit Hring-Dene
gebún hæfdon·
æþelinga gedriht
sorge ne cúðon
wiht unhaélo
gearo sóna wæs
ond on ræste genam
þanon eft gewát
tó hám faran

http://www.heorot.dk/beowulf-rede-text.html

Characteristics of Old English

- German Vocabulary: very few Latin or French words
- Inflections: Word Endings galore
  - Several Classes of Verbs that have different sets of word endings - Conjugations
  - Several Classes of Nouns with different word endings
    - Declensions
  - Adjectives and Articles have lots of word endings and must agree with noun
- Word order in sentences not important because the meaning is communicated in the word endings
- Grammatical Gender: not sexual gender (male, female and neuter) as we think of it.
- Pronunciation: German (no sound recordings)
- Several Old English Dialects

Old English Dialects
- from written evidence -

Dominant Dialects

1. Northunbrian
2. Mercian
3. Kentish
4. West Saxon

Almost all written records of Old English are in the West Saxon dialect.

Inflections: Word Endings
- Modern English Examples -

- Inflections carry a lot of information
- Modern Verb Inflections
  - Modern Regular Verb: kill, kills, killed, killing
  - Modern Irregular Verb: sing, sang, sung
- Modern Noun Inflections
  - Modern Regular Noun: dog, dogs, dog's
  - Modern Irregular Noun: mouse, mice
  - Modern Exception: child, children & ox, oxen
- Modern Personal Pronouns (completely irregular)
  - I, we, us, you, he, she, it, they, them

Grammatical Cases

Modern Example

- **The tall girl threw Alice's ball to the older teacher.**
- **Each noun would have a specific word ending to show the case, gender and number.**
- **The adjectives and articles would have endings that agree with the noun's case, gender and number.**
- **The verb "threw" would have a word ending to show past tense and that the subject (girl) was singular.**

Girl: Subjective Case / Nominative Case

Alice's: Possessive Case / Genitive Case

Ball: Accusative Case / Objective Case

Teacher: Dative Case (indirect object)

Verbs

Inflections for Verbs

- Conjugations: at least nine different classes of verbs that have different endings
- Endings tell you the
  - Number (Singular, Plural)
  - Person: first (I, we), second (you) and third (he, she, it, they)
  - Tense: present / past
- There are regular and irregular verbs
  - Modern Regulars: walk, walks, walked, walked
  - Modern Irregulars: sing, sings, sang, sung

7 Classes of Irregular (Strong) Verbs

- they all have different endings -

	Infinitive	(Modern)	Past Singular	Past Plural	Past Participle
I.	drīfan	(*drive*)	drāf	drifon	(ge) drifen
II.	cēosan	(*choose*)	cēas	curon[13]	coren
III.	helpan	(*help*)	healp	hulpon	holpen
IV.	beran	(*bear*)	bær	bǣron	boren
V.	sprecan	(*speak*)	spræc	sprǣcon	sprecen
VI.	faran	(*fare, go*)	fōr	fōron	faren
VII.	feallan	(*fall*)	fēoll	fēollon	feallen[14]

Verb Conjugation: drifan (drive)

with personal pronouns

INDICATIVE	
Present	
ic	drīf–e
ðū	drīf–st (–est)
hē	drīf–ð (–eð)
wē	drīf–að
gē	drīf–að
hīe	drīf–að
Past	
ic	drāf
ðū	drif–e
hē	drāf
wē	drif–on
gē	drif–on
hīe	drif–on

Archaic letter is like "th"

I drive
You drive
He drives

We drive
You drive
They drive

I drove
You drove
He drove

We drove
You drove
They drove

Nouns

Grammatical vs. Natural Gender

- **Old English, like Classical Latin, does not use gender as we think of it today.**
  - **Boy might be neuter**
  - **Girl might be masculine**
  - **Clock might be feminine**

Inflections for Nouns

- **Declensions: There are several different ending patterns for different groups of nouns. Each tells you:**
  - **Number: singular and plural**
  - **Case: subjective, possessive, accusative and dative**
  - **Grammatical Gender: male, female, neuter**
- **There are Regular and Irregular Nouns:**
  - **Modern regular noun: book & books**
  - **Modern irregular noun: foot & feet**

Old English Declensions of Nouns

Cases: Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative
Number: Singular and Plural
Stone (masculine), Gift (feminine), Hunter (masculine)

Singular	N.	stān	gief–u	hunt–a
	G.	stān–es	gief–e	hunt–an
	D.	stān–e	gief–e	hunt–an
	A.	stān	gief–e	hunt–an
Plural	N.	stān–as	gief–a	hunt–an
	G.	stān–a	gief–a	hunt–ena
	D.	stān–um	gief–um	hunt–um
	A.	stān–as	gief–a	hunt–an

Adjectives and Articles

Old English Adjectives
- must agree with the noun -

- **Adjectives and Definite Articles (the)**
  - **must agree in Number, Case and Gender with the noun it is attached to.**

Old English Adjectives

Strong Adjectives: god mann (good man)

Weak Adjectives: se goda mann (the good man)

Old English *gōd mann* (good man) but *sē gōda mann* (the good man). The forms are those of the nominative singular masculine in the strong and weak declensions respectively, as illustrated below.

		STRONG DECLESION			WEAK DECLENSION		
		Masc.	*Fem.*	*Neut.*	*Masc.*	*Fem.*	*Neut.*
Singular	N.	gōd	gōd[12]	gōd	gōd–a	gōd–e	gōd–e
	G.	gōd–es	gōd–re	gōd–es	gōd–an	gōd–an	gōd–an
	D.	gōd–um	gōd–re	gōd–um	gōd–an	gōd–an	gōd–an
	A.	gōd–ne	gōd–e	gōd	gōd–an	gōd–an	gōd–e
	I.	gōd–e		gōd–e			
Plural	N.	gōd–e	gōd–a	gōd	gōd–an		
	G.	gōd–ra	gōd–ra	gōd–ra	gōd–ena *or* gōd–ra		
	D.	gōd–um	gōd–um	gōd–um	gōd–um		
	A.	gōd–e	gōd–a	gōd	gōd–an		

Modern Personal Pronouns (Completely Irregular)

Modern Example

Subjective / Nominative Case		
	Singular	Plural
First Person	I	we
Second	you	you
Third	he, she, it	they
Accusative / Objective Case		
	Singular	Plural
First Person	me	us
Second	you	you
Third	him, her, it	them

More Personal Pronouns

	Singular	Dependent possessive	Independent possessive	Reflexive
First		my	mine	myself
Second		your	your	yourself
Third	Masculine	his	his	himself
Third	Femine	her	hers	herself
Third	Neuter	its	its	itself
	Plural	Dependent possessive	Independent possessive	Reflexive
	First	our	ours	ourselves
	Second	your	yours	yourselves
	Third	their	theirs	themselves

Should be “theirselves”

Even More Personal Pronouns

Second Person		Subject	Object	Reflexive	Dependent Possessive	Independent Possessive
Singular	Archaic	thou	thee	thyself	thine	thy, thine
Plural	Archaic	ye	you	yourselves	yours	your
Plural	Nonstandard	you all	you all	y'all's	y'all's	
Plural	Nonstandard	y'all	y'all	y'allselves	y'alls	
Plural	Nonstandard	youse	youse			

My Bronx favorite !

Word Order in Sentences

- **Modern English: word order is critical**

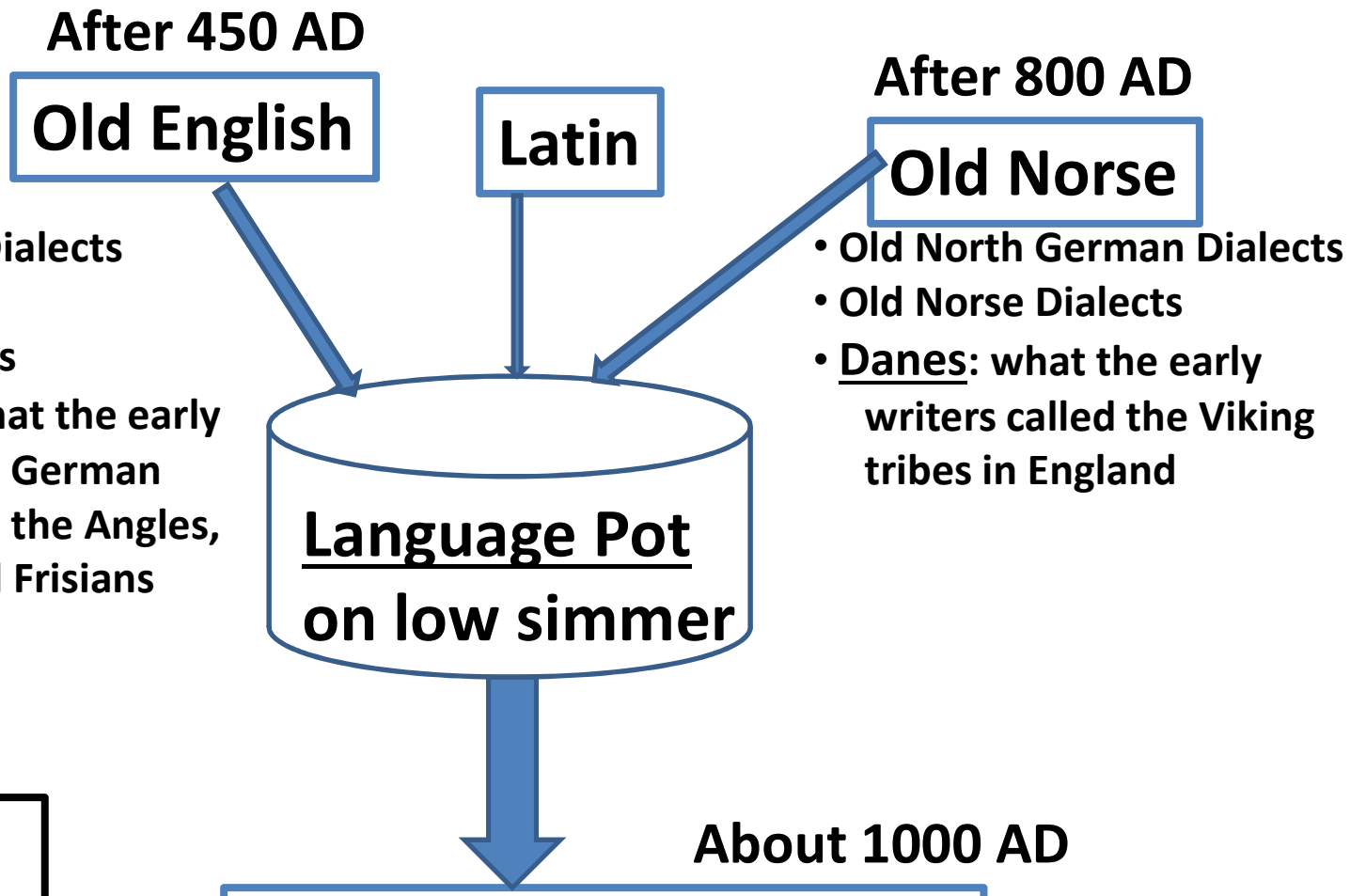
- **We use SVO = Subject – Verb – Object**
  - **The boy killed the soldier.**
  - **The soldier killed the boy.**

- **Inflected language: different word endings (inflections) make word order irrelevant**
  - **the boy-subject kill-past the soldier-object**
  - **the soldier-object kill-past the boy-subject**

Words in red stand for word endings (inflections)

Language Pot: Old English

Celtic
Dead in England


After 450 AD
Old English
Latin
After 800 AD
Old Norse
• Old Low German Dialects
• Old Saxon
• Old English Dialects
• Anglo Saxons: what the early writers called the German tribes in England: the Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians
• Old North German Dialects
• Old Norse Dialects
• Danes: what the early writers called the Viking tribes in England
Language Pot
on low simmer
About 1000 AD
Evolved Old English
• Beowulf
• West Saxon Written Dialect

Spoken dialects
vs.
Written Standard

Review: Old English

- **Very Old German Vocabulary**
- **Lots and Lots of Word Endings (Inflections)**
- **Evolved from 450 AD to 1066 AD**
- **After 800 AD, Old Norse mixed with Old English in the North and East of England**

Videos for Session 2

- **Turn on subtitles**
  - **Main Menu, Setup, Subtitles=ON**
  - **Back to Main Menu, then Scene Index**
- **Disk 1 Episode 1**
- **Scenes 5, 6, 7 (27 minutes)**
  5. **Alfred**
  6. **Better English**
  7. **Norman-French Invasion**

End Class 2

Session 3: Middle English

Example: an old prayer

Indo-European Languages

Norman Invasion (1066)

Geography of England and France

English is marginalized by Norman French

History Surrounding Middle English

Example
"Forgivith my nerdiness"

Note: **I'm using a Christian prayer because the Anglo-Saxons were Christians.**

OLD: Old English: about 1000 CE
MID: Middle English: about 1400 CE
MOD: Modern English: about 1800 CE

Old English Prayer: unfamiliar letters (þ and ð) are like "th" and æ like "a"

1. **Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum,**
2. **si þin nama gehalgod.**
3. **to becume þin rice,**
4. **gewurþe ðin willa,**
5. **on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.**
6. **urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg,**
7. **and forgyf us ure gyltas,**
8. **swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum.**
9. **and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge,**
10. **ac alys us of yfele soþlice.**

About the year 1000 AD

Old English Prayer: I have replaced the unfamiliar letters (þ and ð) with "th" and æ with "a"

1. **Fader ure thu the eart on heofonum,**
2. **si thin nama gehalgod.**
3. **to becume thin rice,**
4. **gewurthe thin willa,**
5. **on eorthan swa swa on heofonum.**
6. **urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todag,**
7. **and forgyf us ure gyltas,**
8. **swa swa we forgyfath urum gyltendum.**
9. **and ne gelæd thu us on costnunge,**
10. **ac alys us of yfele sothlice.**

About the year 1000 AD

Line 1

OLD **Fader ure thu the eart on heofonum**

MID **Oure fadir that art in heuenes**

MOD **Our Father who art in heaven,**

Word Order: “Father Our” ➔ “Our Father”

Spelling Change: faeder ➔ fadir ➔ father

Spelling Change: heofonum ➔ heuenes ➔ heaven

“on” ➔ “in”

Inflections are not obvious to modern speakers

Line 2

OLD si thin nama gehalgod

MID halwid be thi name;

MOD Hallowed be thy name.

The word order of the sentence changes.

Vocabulary: "gehalgod" → halwid → Hallowed

Line 3

OLD to becume thin rice

MID thi reume or kyngdom come to be.

MOD Thy kingdom come.

Vocabulary: rice → reume or kyngdom → kingdon

In Middle English both "reume" and "kyngdom" are both used

Line 4

OLD gewurthe thin willa

MID Be thi wille don

MOD Thy will be done

Vocabulary: gewurthe → don → done

The word order of the sentence changes.

Line 5

OLD on eorthan swa swa on heofonum

MID in herthe as it is dunin heuene.

MOD on earth as it is in heaven.

Spelling: eorthan → herthe → earth

Spelling: heofonum → heuene → heaven

Line 6

OLD urne gedaghwamlican hlaf syle us todag

MID yeue to us today oure eche dayes bred.

MOD Give us this day our daily bread,

Vocabulary: gedæghwamlican hlaf syle ➔

oure eche dayes bred ➔ our daily bread

The word order of the sentence changes.

Spelling: urne ➔ yeue ➔ give

Spelling: todæg ➔ today ➔ this day

Line 7

OLD and forgyf us ure gyltas

MID and foryeue to us oure dettis that is oure synnys

MOD and forgive us our trespasses,

Vocabulary: ure gyltas → oure dettis and oure synnys

→ our trespasses

Spelling: forgyf → foryeue → forgive

Line 8

OLD swa swa we forgyfath urum gyltendum

MID as we foryeuen to oure dettouris
that is to men that han synned in us.

MOD as we forgive those who trespass
against us,

Forgyfath → foryeuen → forgive

Complex structures to express "those who sin against us"

Line 9

OLD and ne gelad thu us on costnunge

MID and lede us not into temptacion

MOD and lead us not into temptation,

Old word "costnunge" ➔ "temptation" (French?)

Spelling: "lead" evolves: gelaed => lede => lead

Spelling: "ne" becomes "not"

Line 10

OLD ac alys us of yfele sothlice

MID but delyuere us from euyl

MOD but deliver us from evil

Vocabulary: soþlice replaced by "deliver"

"from" replaces "of"

Spelling: yfele → euyl → evil

Old English Prayer

1. Fader ure thu the eart on heofonum,
2. si thin nama gehalgod.
3. to becume thin rice,
4. gewurthe thin willa,
5. on eorthan swa swa on heofonum.
6. urne gedaghwamlican hlaf syle us todag,
7. and forgyf us ure gyltas,
8. swa swa we forgyfath urum gyltendum.
9. and ne gelad thu us on costnunge,
10. ac alys us of yfele sothlice.

About the year 1000 AD

Indo-European Language Family

Sir William Jones

- **William Jones was a language genius and a English judge in Bengal in India. Took up Sanskrit as a hobby.**
- **1786: Sir William Jones first lectured on the similarities among three of the oldest languages he knew:**
  - **Latin,**
  - **Greek**
  - **Sanskrit**
- **He theorized that Latin, Greek and Sanskrit must have had a common ancestor that no longer existed**

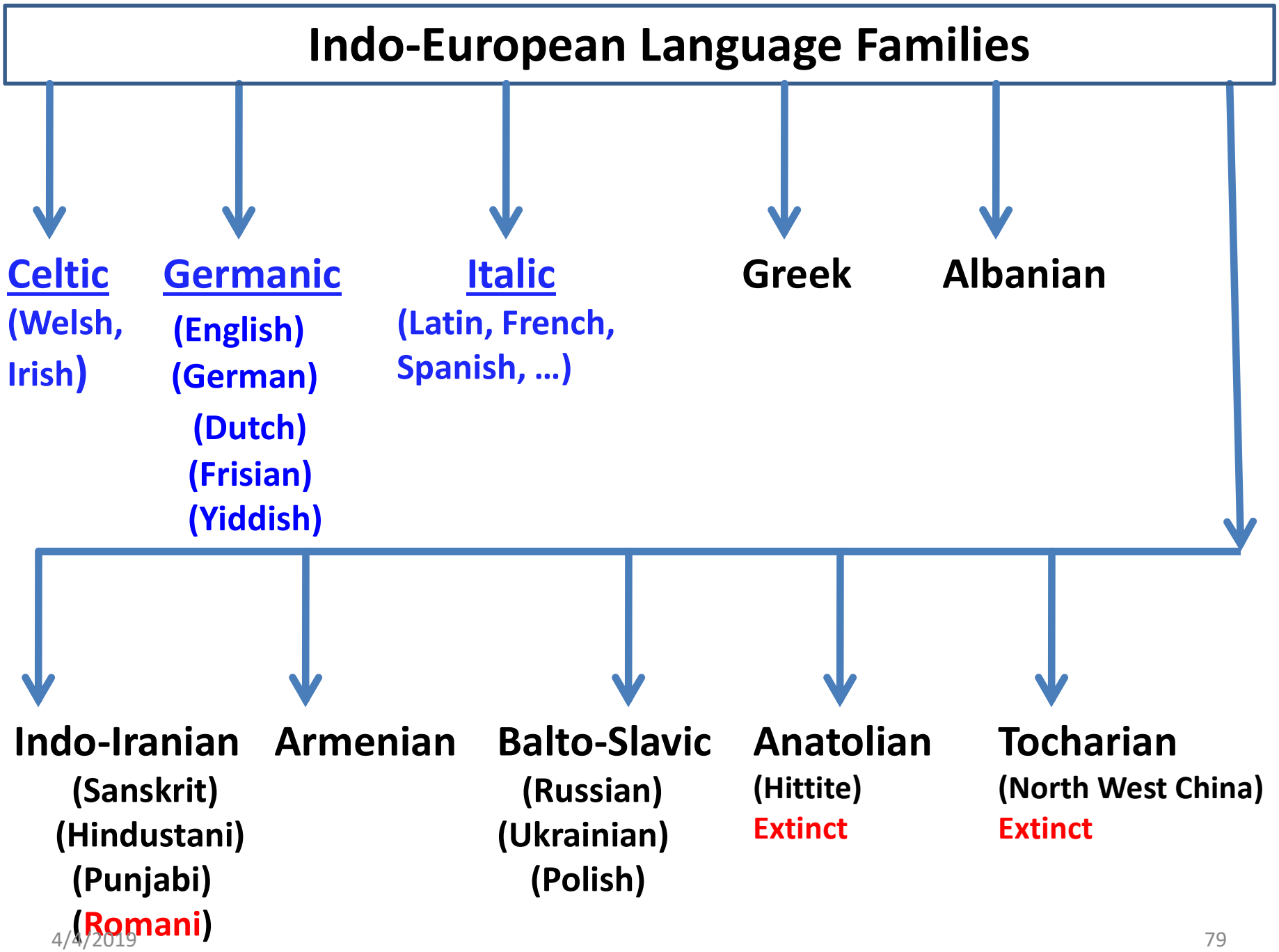
Language Families in Europe

Indo-European Family

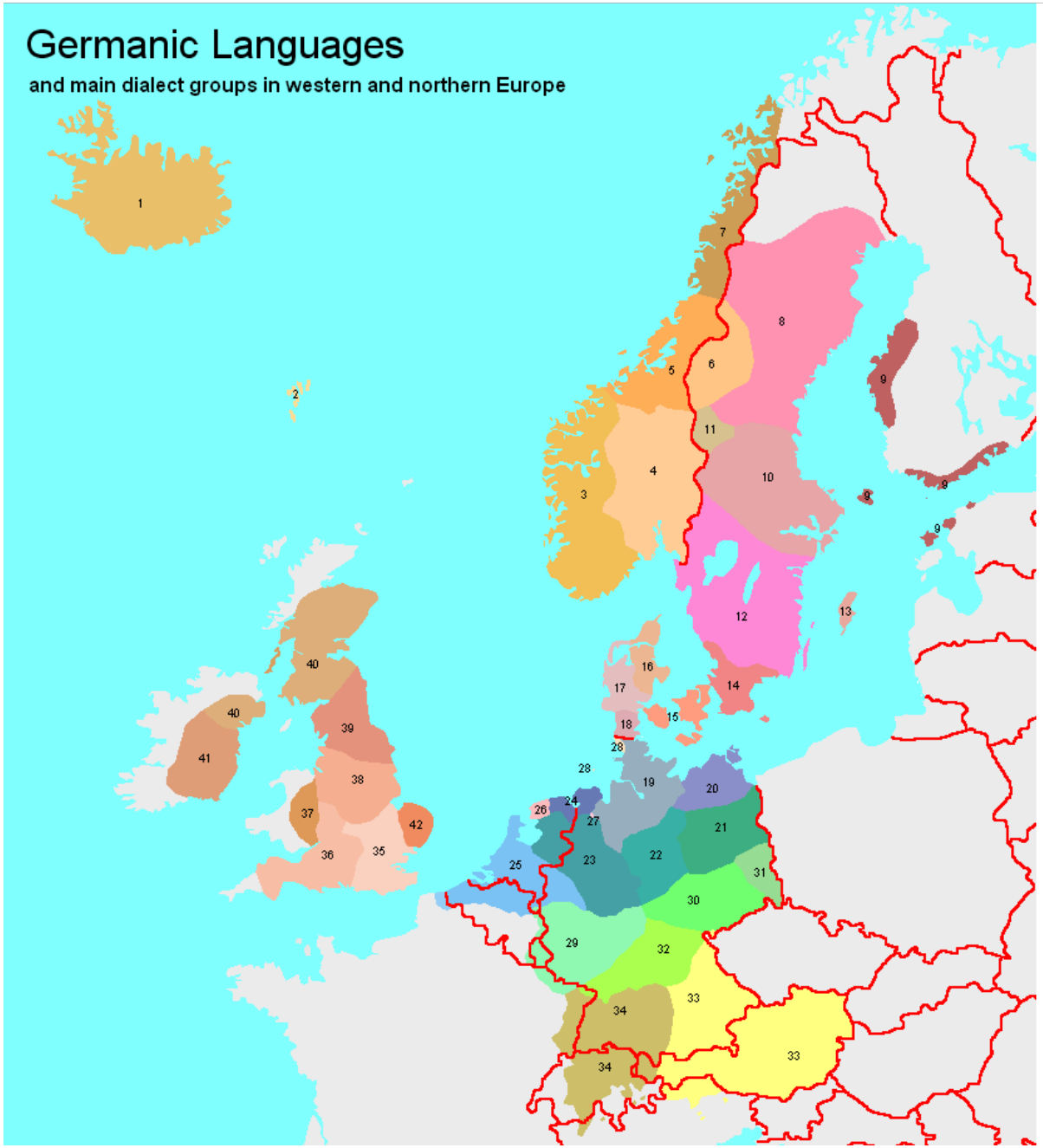
- **Most European Languages (details to follow)**

Non Indo-European Languages in Europe

- **Finnic Group**
  - **Hungarian, Finnish and Estonian**
- **Basque: not related to any known language**
  - **Called a "language isolate"**
  - **Very mysterious**


Indo-European Language Families
Celtic
(Welsh, Irish)
Germanic
(English)
(German)
(Dutch)
(Frisian)
(Yiddish)
Italic
(Latin, French, Spanish, …)
Greek
Albanian
Indo-Iranian
(Sanskrit)
(Hindustani)
(Punjabi)
(Romani)
Armenian
Balto-Slavic
(Russian)
(Ukrainian)
(Polish)
Anatolian
(Hittite)
Extinct
Tocharian
(North West China)
Extinct

Germanic Family



West Scandinavian
1. Icelandic
2. Faroese
3. Southwest Norse
4. Southeast Norse
5. Trøndersk
6. Jamtish
7. North Norse

East Scandinavian
8. Norrlandic
9. East Swedish
10. Svealandic
11. Elfdalian
12. Götalandic
13. Gotlandic
14. Scanian (incl. Bomholm dialect)
15. Insular Danish
16. East Jutlandic
17. West Jutlandic
18. South Jutlandic

Low German
19. (North) Low Saxon
20. Mecklenburgish-Westpommeranian
21. Märkisch
22. Eastphalian
23. Westphalian (incl. Dutch Low Saxon)
24. East Frisian (incl. Groningan)
25. Low Franconian (incl. Dutch)

Frisian
26. West Frisian (Westerlauwers)
27. Sater Frisian
28. North Frisian

Central German
29. Central Franconian (incl. Luxembourgish)
30. Thuringian-Upper Saxon (incl. High German)
31. Lausitzisch

Upper German
32. Upper Franconian
33. Astro-Bavarian
34. Alemannic-Swabian (incl. Swiss German)

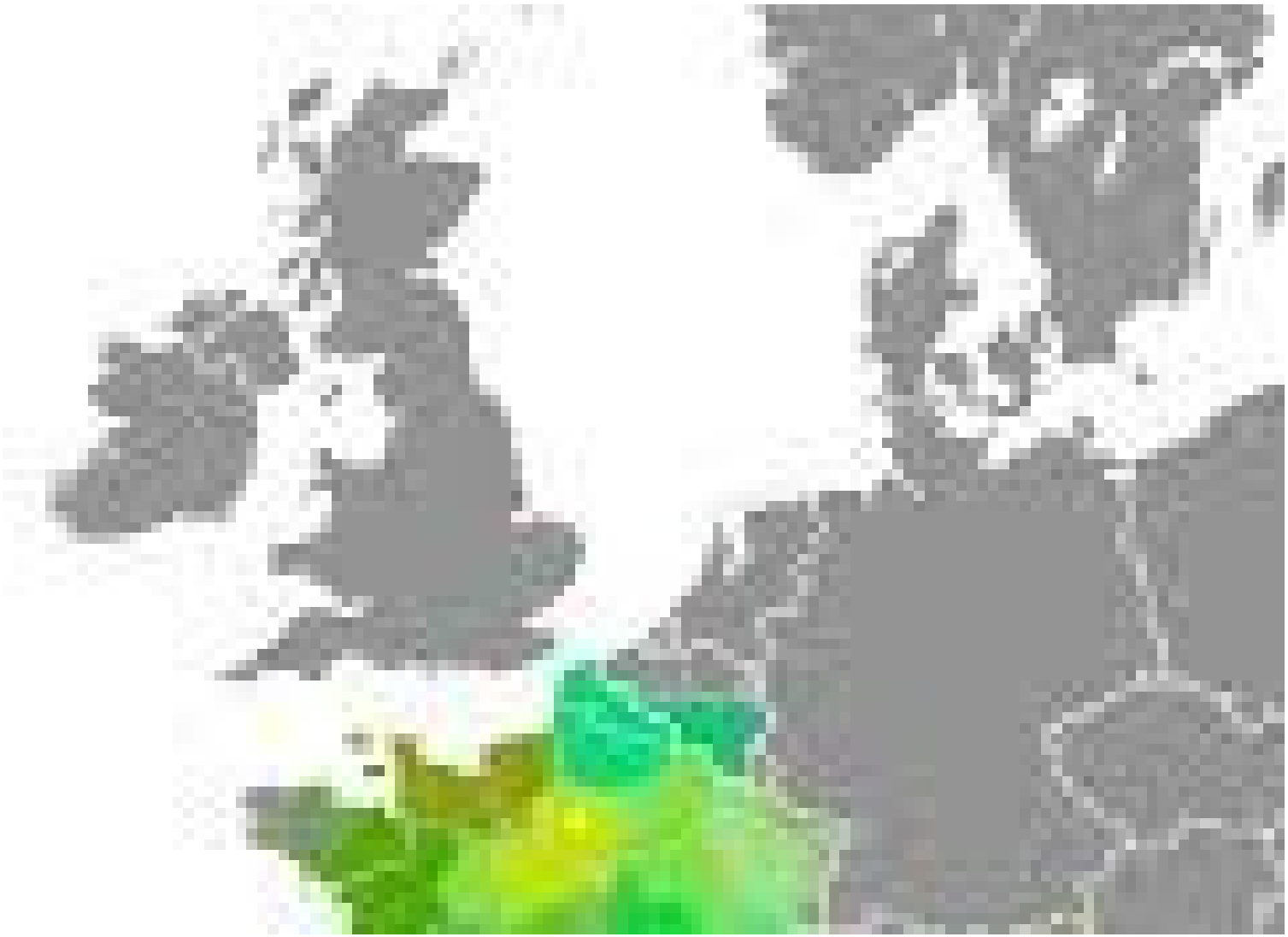
Anglic
35. Southeast English
36. Southwest English
37. Welsh English
38. Central English
39. North English
40. Anglo Scottish
41. Irish Hiberno
42. Anglian English

Major Romance Languages

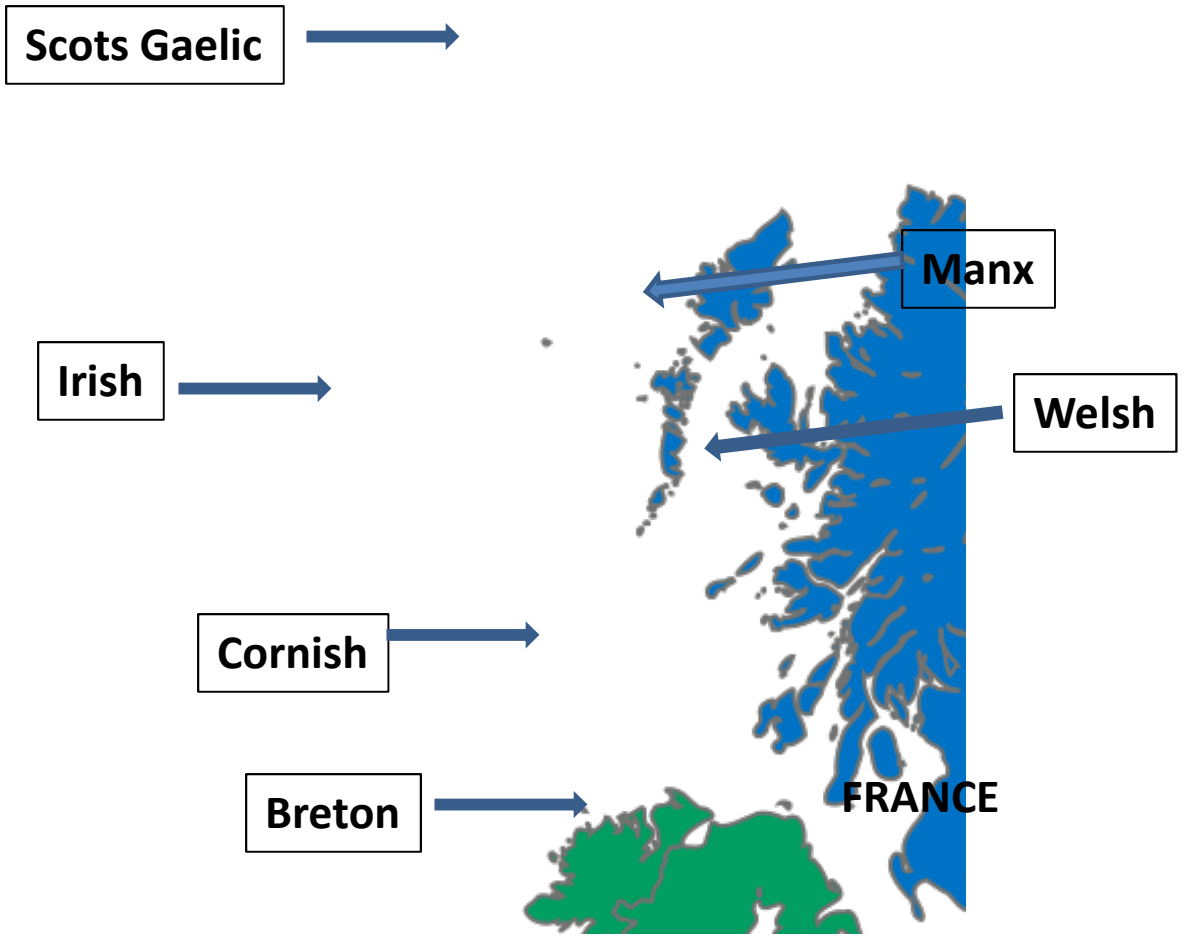
- From Classical Latin -

- **French**
  - **Norman French is a dialect of Old French**
- **Italian**
- **Spanish**
- **Portuguese**
- **Romanian**
- **Catalan**
- **Provençal**

Romance Languages



Celtic Languages Today (All are Struggling)



English Language Lineage

- **Blood Relatives**
  - Old West German
  - Old Norse: a North German Language
- **In-Laws & Cousins**
  - Norman French
  - Paris-French
  - Latin: classical, church, scholarly

Norman-French Invasion

Headline: 1066 AD

Norman French invade & occupy England

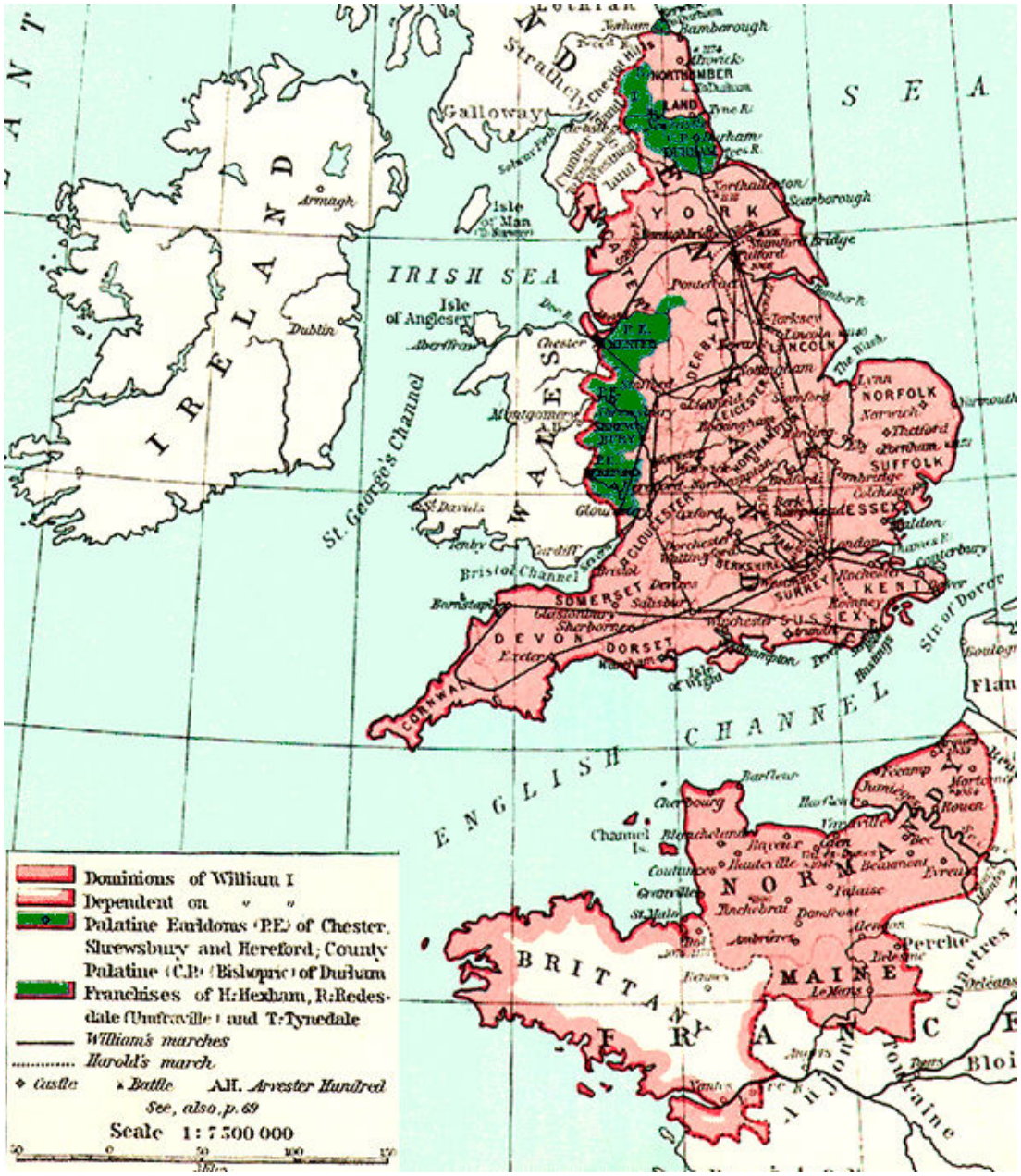
(200 years later)

- **Norman French destroy Anglo-Saxon political and religious leadership**
  - **Normans take all the land, the power and the Church**
  - **Norman French: oral and written language of the rich**
    - **Norman French is a dialect of Old French.**
  - **Latin is language of Church**
- **English is the oral language of the peasants**
  - **Peasants (Serfs) are 90% of the population**
  - **There is no written English for more than 200 years**
  - **Old English Dialects → Middle English Dialects**

Norman Invade and Occupy England

- **1066: William Duke of Normandy invaded England and becomes King of England**
  - **Normans spoke a dialect of Old French called Norman French**
  - **Anglo-Saxon nobles were killed in battle or fled**
- **Normans take all the land & important church offices**
  - **Norman French becomes the official spoken and written language of England for more than 300 years.**
  - **Latin is the language of the church and official documents**
- **English Language becomes the 3rd class language of peasants (90% of the people)**
  - **Writing in English almost disappears**
  - **Spoken English has no rules or schools or standards**
- **Norman royals are basically French who hold lands both in Normandy and in occupied England**

Norman / French Lands: 1066 to 1154



Confusing: English Kings were really Norman French Nobles who occupied and ruled England

Example: King Henry II

- 1150: Duke of Normandy.
  - Vassal to King of France (pledge of loyalty to French King).
- 1151: Count of Anjou, Maine, and Nantes
- 1152: Duke of Aquitaine by marrying Eleanor Of Aquitaine
  - "Lion in Winter", Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn, 1968
- 1154: King of England
  - Feuded with Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was killed in 1170
    - "Becket": Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton, 1964
    - "Murder in the Cathedral", a play by T.S. Eliot, 1935

Henry II's Empire (in red and pink)

How did the Norman French upper class become English?

- There was no invasion from abroad
- There was no Civil War at home
- They had all the land and money
- What happened?

Historical Events after 1066
- The Normans Become English -

- **1204: King John looses Normandy to French**
- **1205: French King rules that one person cannot hold estates in both England and France**
  - **English king rules only England**
  - **Normans in England gradually lose contact with France and gradually "go native".**
  - **French Language in England gradually becomes a foreign language even to the ruling class.**
- **1337 – 1453: Hundred Years War with France**
  - **France becomes the enemy of England**

Videos for Sessions 3

- Turn on subtitles
  - Main Menu, Setup, Subtitles=ON
  - Back to Main Menu, then Scene Index

Disk 1 Episode 2: 31 minutes

- Scene 4: Loss of Normandy
- Scene 5: Black Death
- Scene 6: Geoffrey Chaucer

Session 4: Middle English

English Vocabulary: flood of French words

Loss of Inflections and Grammatical Gender

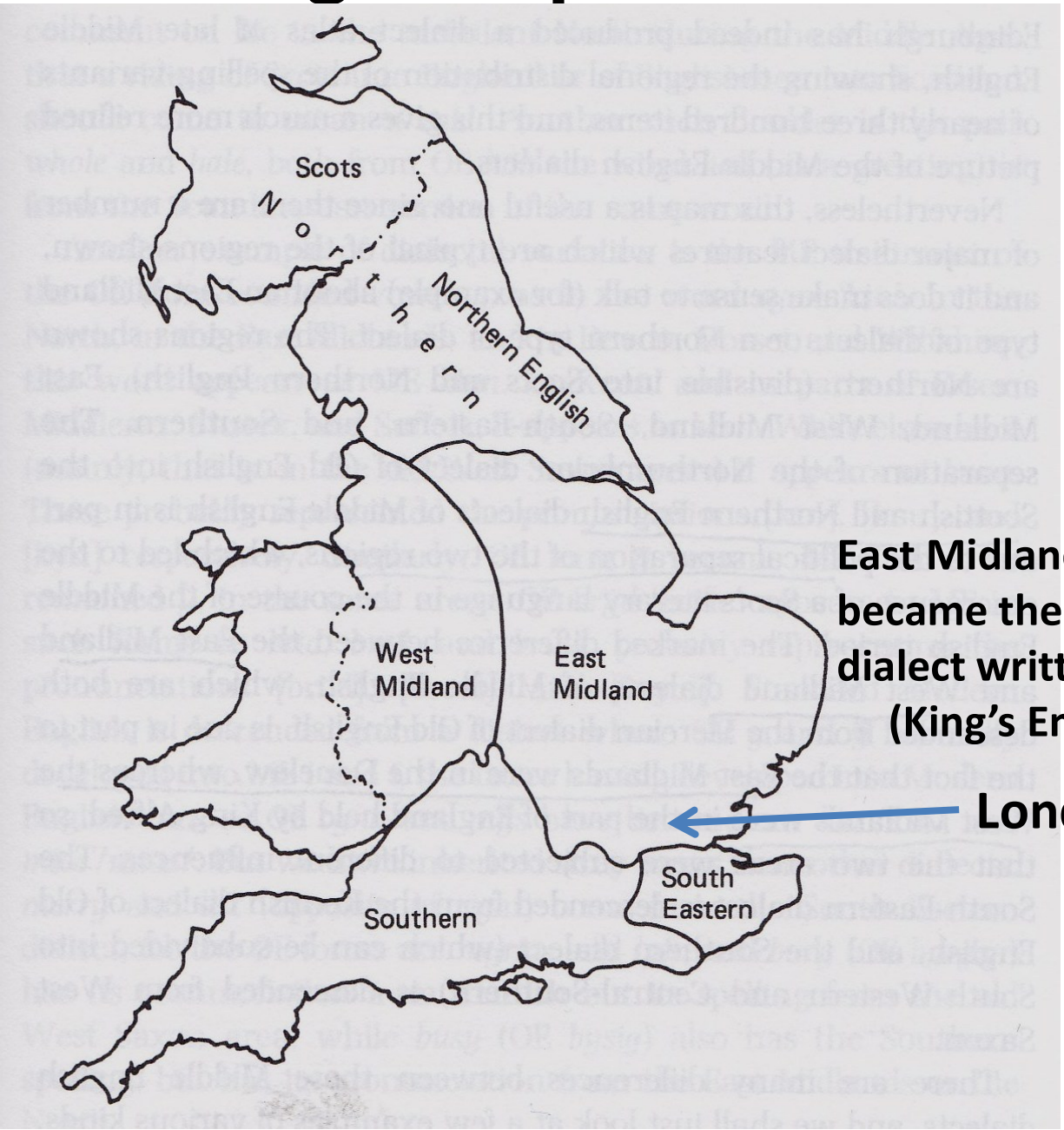
English Language regains dominance in England

Geoffrey Chaucer

Changes in Middle English from 1066 to 1400 AD

- French words replaced many Old English words
- Words change pronunciation and spelling
- Inflections (ending on nouns & verbs) are greatly reduced
- Word order in a sentence is now critical:
  - We use Subject Verb Object (SVO)
- Old fashioned letters from Old English disappear

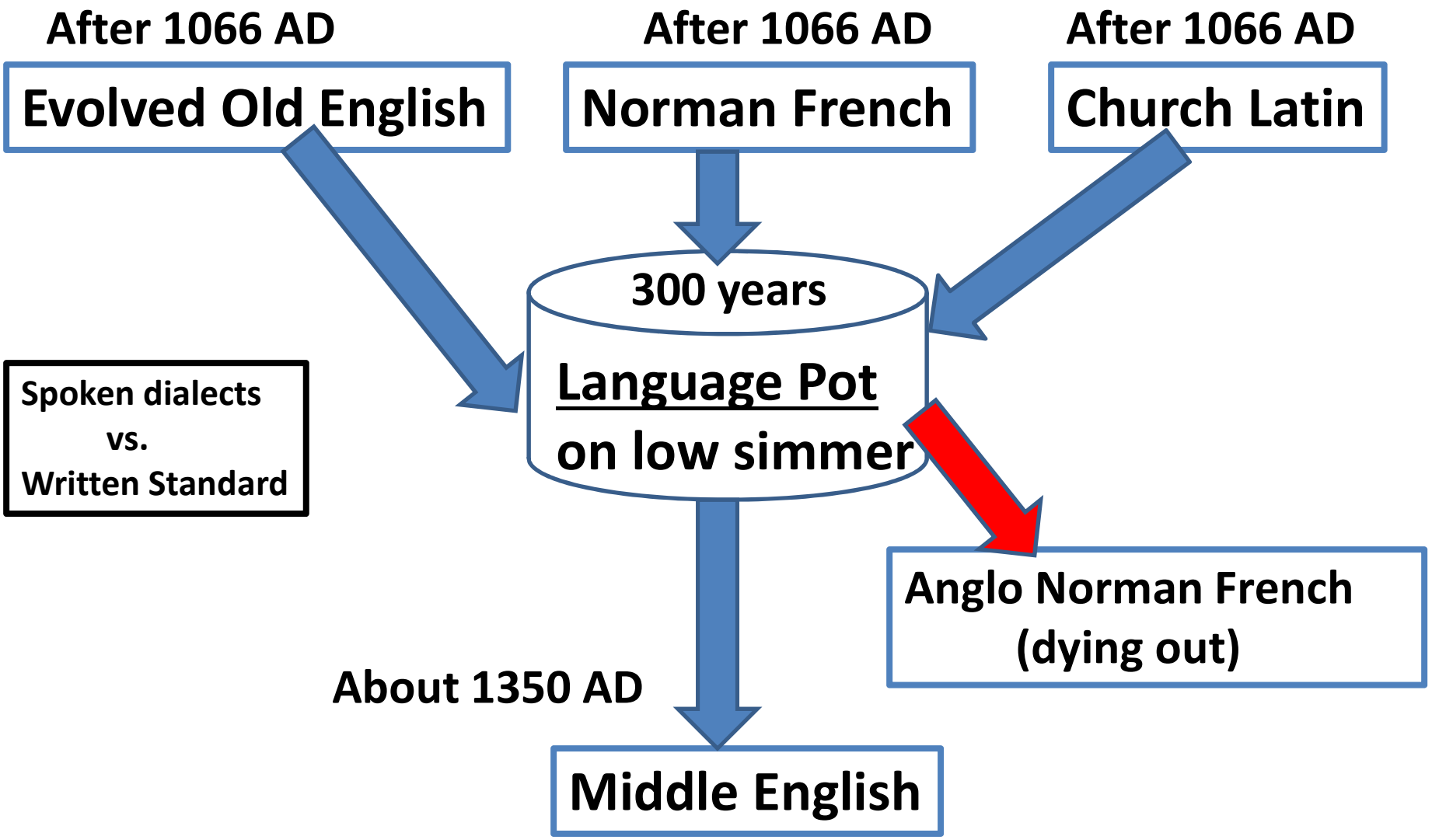
Middle English Spoken Dialects



East Midlands (London) became the dominant dialect written English (King's English)

London

Language Pot: #2



- Geoffrey Chaucer: died in 1400
- East Midlands Written Dialect beginning to take over

Headline: Around 1450 AD

Resurrection of English Language

(About 400 years later)

- **1450 AD: The English language emerges as the "official" language of England**
  - **How did this happen?**
- **First English speaking king in 300 years**
- **Middle English Dialects → Early Modern English Dialects**
- **Printing Press (1475)**
  - **Standard Written English became London English (King's English)**

Big Shots in England begin to use English for Official Business

1337	Hundred Years War Begins: England vs. France
1351	First wave of the Great Plague: 15 outbreaks until 1485
1362	Parliament uses English
1362	Courts allow use of English
1385	Schools use English (Except Oxford and Cambridge)
1417	Henry V letter in English after Battle of Agincourt in France
1422	Chancery (government bureaucracy) uses English
1453	Hundred Years War Ends: England vs. France
1476	Printing Press in England
1535	Church of England uses English: Henry VIII, English Bible
1704	Issac Newton writes "Optics" paper in English

Middle English Example

Prolog to the Canterbury Tales – Geoffrey Chaucer - 1390

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote,
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licóur
Of which vertú engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his swete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours y-ronne,
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open ye,

Prolog to the Canterbury Tales – Geoffrey Chaucer - 1390

So priketh hem Natúre in hir corages,

Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,

And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,

To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;

And specially, from every shires ende

Of Engelond, to Caunterbury they wende,

The hooly blisful martir for to seke,

That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke.

Interlinear Canterbury Prologue Lines 1 to 6

1 Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
When April's sweet-smelling showers

2 The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
the drought of March have pierced to the root,

3 And bathed every veyne in swich licour
And bathed every vein in such liquid

4 Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
By which power is created the flower;

5 Whan Zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
When the West Wind also with its sweet breath,

6 Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
has breathed life into every wood and field

Interlinear Canterbury Tales Lines 7 to 13

7 The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
The tender new leaves, and the young sun

8 Hath in the Ram his half cours yronne,
Has in Aries its half course run,

9 And smale foweles maken melodye,
And small fowls make melody,

10 That slepen al the nyght with open ye
Those that sleep all the night with open eyes

11 (So priketh hem Nature in hir corages),
(So Nature incites them in their hearts),

12 Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,
Then folk desire to go on pilgrimages,

13 And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,
And professional pilgrims seek foreign shores,

Interlinear Canterbury Tales Lines 14 to 18

14 To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;
To distant shrines, known in various lands;

15 And specially from every shires ende
And specially from every shire's end

16 Of Engelond to Caunterbury they wende,
Of England to Canterbury they travel,

17 The hooly blisful martir for to seke,
The holy blessed martyr to seek ,

18 That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke.
Who had helped them when they were sick.

http://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/tr-index.htm

Videos for Sessions 4

- Turn on subtitles
  - Main Menu, Setup, Subtitles=ON
  - Back to Main Menu, then Scene Index

Disk 2 Episode 3: 15 minutes

- Scene 6: English Bible
- Scene 7: Open the King's Eyes

Session 5: Early Modern English

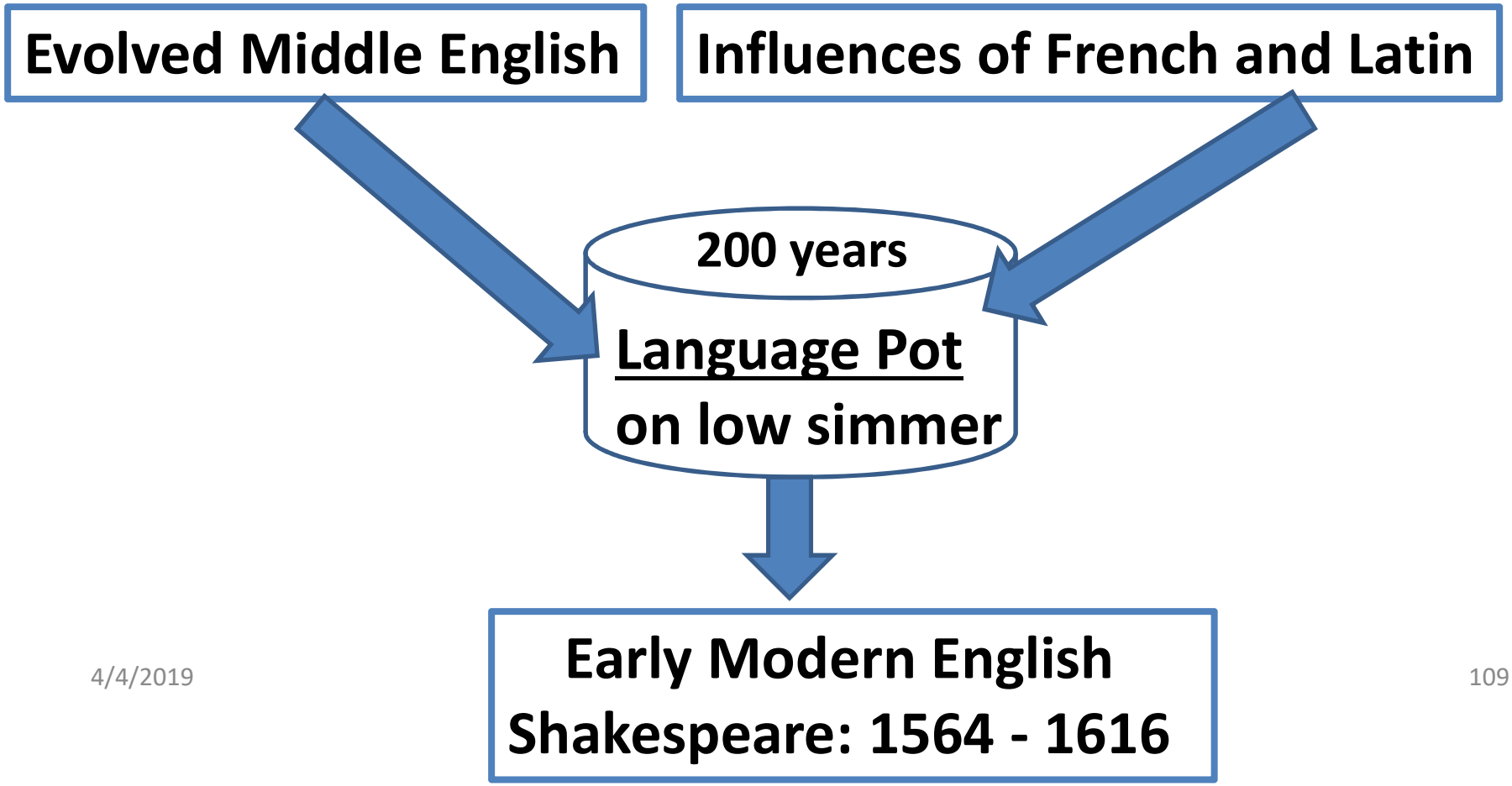
The English Language becomes the language of England

Printing Press
Spelling standardized
Pronunciation keeps on changing

West Midland's dialect becomes standard written English (London – Oxford – Cambridge English)

William Shakespeare

Language Pot: #3



Confusion

- Middle English → Modern English -

- Many regional English dialects still existed
- Printing Press standardized English spelling to the London dialect (starting around 1500)
- Great Vowel Shift changed the pronunciation of long vowels (1350 to 1650)
- Conclusion: Spelling was set in cement, but pronunciation continued to change.

Great Vowel Shift

The Great Vowel Shift was a major series of changes in the pronunciation of the English language (1350 TO 1700) and influenced all dialects of English.

- **all Middle English long vowels changed their pronunciation.**
- **In addition, some consonant sounds changed as well, particularly those that became silent**
- **You must be very familiar with phonics to really understand the Great Vowel Shift**

?? Causes of the Great Vowel Shift ??

- **Black Death: migration from northern England to the southeast caused a mixing of accents that forced a change in the standard London vernacular.**
- **The rise of Merchant Middle Class and Towns (not feudal estates)**
- **French Loanwords: the influx of French loanwords was a major factor in the shift.**
- **Attempt to Sound Less French: the English aristocracy's switching from French to English around this time. Perhaps this caused a vowel shift in pronunciation that made English sound less like French.**

William Caxton, 1475, The Printer
- Inventing the Written Language: Page 1 -

And whan I sawe the fayr & straunge termes therein / I doubted that it sholde not please some gentylmen whiche late blamed me, saying in my translacyons I had ouer curyous termes, which coude not be vnderstande by comyn peple / and desired me to vse olde and homely termes in my translacyons. Fayn wolde I satisfye euery man / and so to doo, toke an olde boke and redde therin / and certaynly the englysshe was so rude and brood that I coude not wele vnderstande it.

William Caxton, 1474, The Printer
- Inventing the Written Language: Page 2 -

And also my lorde abbot of westmynster ded to shewe to me late, certayn euydences wryton on olde englyssshe, for to reduce it in-to oure englysshe now vsid / And certaynly it was wreton in suche wyse that is was more lyke to dutche than englysshe ….

And certaynly our language now vsed varyeth ferre from that whiche was vsed and spoken whan I was borne.

But in my Iudgemente / the comyn termes that be dayli vsed, ben lyghter to be vnderstonde than the olde and auncyent englysshe

William Shakespeare: 1564 - 1616

To morrow, and to morrow, and to morrow,
Creepes in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last Syllable of Recorded time:
And all our yesterdayes, haue lighted Fooles
The way to dusty death. Out, out, breefe Candle,
Life's but a walking Shadow, a poore Player,
That struts and frets his houre vpon the Stage,
And then is heard no more. It is a Tale
Told by an Ideot, full of sound and fury
Signifying nothing.

http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/doc/Mac_F1/complete/
Macbeth: Act 5 Scene 5

Videos for Sessions 5

- Turn on subtitles
  - Main Menu, Setup, Subtitles=ON
  - Back to Main Menu, then Scene Index

Total of 35 minutes

Video: "What Shakespeare Sounded Like": 7 minutes

Disk 2 Episode 4: 10 minutes

- Scene 5: Shakespeare

Disk 3 Episode 5: 15 minutes

- Scene 1: Empire
- Scene 2: American English

Session 6: Modern English

New World: America and New England

Continued flood of new vocabulary

Old English "simple" words survive

Demands to speak and write CORRECT English

British Empire and American DOMINANCE

New World: Mobile Phones and the Internet

Headline 1600 AD

English Language exported to the Empire

(150 Years Later)

- **1600 AD: English language is exported outside of England by the British Empire**
- **Until about 1600, the English Language was the dominant language only in England**
  - **Early 1600s: USA and Canada**
  - **Early 1800s: Australia and New Zealand**
- **Early Modern English → Modern English**

Changes to English Language

- **“s” now the common ending for plurals, but Shakespeare did use old plurals**
  - **foe, foen**
  - **knee, kneen**
  - **flea, flean**
  - **eye, eyen**
- **Adjectives no longer have endings that reflect gender, number and case**
- **Present Tense of Verbs changed**
  - **giveth, gives** **hath, has**
  - **saith, says** **marketh, marks**

Two Major Changes
- Auxiliary Verbs and Prepositions -

- **Auxiliary Verbs: allow the English Language to express complex time-sensitive 'verb' events without the use of inflections.**
- **Prepositions: prepositions replace many of the old inflections that were used to indicate the 'case' that the noun was in.**

Progressive Verb Forms (circa 1800)

Progressive Verb Forms: describe ongoing actions in the present, past or future. There are two required elements:

1. "to be" verb (am, is, are, was, were, will be)
2. an action verb ending in "ing"

	Singular	Plural
Present	am / is	are
Past	was	were
Future	will be	

“to be” as an auxiliary verb
- Progressive Verb Forms -

Present Progressive

- I **am taking** a bath.
- You **are taking** a bath.
- He / she/ it **is taking** a bath.
- We / you / they **are taking** a bath.

Past Progressive

- I **was taking** a bath.
- We **were taking** a bath.

Future Progressive

- I **will be taking** a bath

Auxiliary Verbs that change form

Note these verbs can also be used as regular verbs

Verb: "to be" can be used as an auxiliary verb

- am, is, are
- was, were
- being, been

Verb: "to do": can be used as an auxiliary verb

- do, does, did

Verb: "to have": can be used as an auxiliary verb

- have, having, has, had

Auxiliary Verbs that do not change form
- Modal Auxiliary Verbs -

- will, shall
- would, should, can, could
- may, might, must

‘Could’, ‘Should’ and ‘Would Have Been”
- Past Conditional English Grammar -

Conditional Grammar expresses an idea that is not real. It didn’t actually happen.

- **However, we believe *if* certain conditions were met, then things could have been different.**

Examples:

- **“If I had worked harder, I could have been more successful.”**
- **“You should have been more careful!”**
- **“It would have been better if you had practiced a bit more before your presentation.”**

Perfect Form of Verbs

The perfect form is the verb tense used to indicate a completed or "perfected" action or condition.

Verbs in the perfect form use a form of "have" or "had" + the past participle.

- **Present Perfect: I have finished my homework.**
- **Past Perfect: He had watched TV for an hour before dinner.**
- **Future Perfect: Nancy will have finished by the time her parents return.**

Must, May, Might

"Must have been" is used to express an assumption, or an opinion that you gathered from a logical guess. In fact, we are talking about what we believe to be true (in the past)!

- **He must have been in the building. I saw him walking up the front steps.**

Less sure of your assumption or opinion.

- **He may have been correct. (past)**
- **He might have been there. (past)**

Common Prepositions

1. of	14. through
2. in	15. after
3. to	16. over
4. for	17. between
5. with	18. out
6. on	19. against
7. at	20. during
8. from	21. without
9. by	22. before
10. about	23. under
11. as	24. around
12. into	25. among
13. like	

History

Until about 1600
English was spoken only in England

Date	**Event**
1000 AD	English is spoken in England
1500 AD	English spoken in England and in some other parts of British Isles
1600 AD	Add colonies (USA, Canada, West Indies)
1830 AD	Add Australia and New Zealand plus other parts of Empire
2000 AD	English is world's second language
2000 AD	English is language of the Internet

The Path to Modern English

- **Printing Press: London English**
- **English Church split from Rome: English language (not Latin) Bibles and Prayer Books.**
- **Demand for books in English, not Latin**
- **Education: teaching "standard" London English**
- **Specialized knowledge that required new vocabulary: science, technology, medicine**
- **Language Patriotism: desire to control and purify the English Language**

Vain Attempts to Fix English

In 1750, grammar and vocabulary were more fluid with more choices than today. Many features of the language not yet settled

- **Can we fix the crazy spelling?**
- **Can we create a definitive English Grammar, like the Latin grammars?**
- **Should there be an English Academy to control the language and keep it "pure"?**
  - **Can we refine English: use the good parts and remove the bad stuff?**
  - **Can you freeze the correct language so it doesn't drift away?**
- **Can we make people speak correctly?**

USA in 1790 Census

- **The English language was firmly established in the original 13 States.**
  - **New England was really "New England"**
  - **Literacy and schools were required for Bible reading**
- **Free Population: 3,200,000**
  - **90% of whites descended from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland**
  - **95% of population lived along the Atlantic**
- **Slave Population: 694,000**
  - **18% of the total Population**
- **Native Americans**
  - **native people lived in the thirteen states, but they were not counted in census**

We Often Forget

There were Native Americans and, later, European settlers in the other 37 states.

Permanent Settlements

- Taos Pueblo (New Mexico): 1450 (Native Americans)
- Saint Augustine (Florida): 1565 (Spain)
- Espanola (New Mexico): 1598 (Spain)
- Sault Ste. Marie (Michigan): 1688 (France)
- Biloxi (Mississippi): 1699 (France)
- San Antonio (Texas): 1718 (Spain)
- Green Bay (Wisconsin): 1765 (France)

Mayflower Compact (1620) – Legal Document

Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine our selves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid;

and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

41 Male Signers of the Mayflower Compact

- 9 John, 4 Edward, 4 William, 3 Thomas, 3 Richard, 2 Francis -

John Carver
William Brewster
John Alden
William Mullins
John Craxton
John Howland
John Tilly
Thomas Tinker
John Turner
Digery Priest
Edmond Margeson
Richard Clark
Thomas English
John Goodman
William Bradford
Isaac Allerton
Samuel Fuller
William White
John Billington
Steven Hopkins
Francis Cook
John Rigdale
Francis Eaton
Thomas Williams
Peter Brown
Richard Gardiner
Edward Doten
George Soule
Edward Winslow
Miles Standish
Christopher Martin
James Chilton
Richard Warren
Edward Tilly
Thomas Rogers
Edward Fuller
Moses Fletcher
Gilbert Winslow
Richard Bitteridge
John Allerton
Edward Liester

Last Names: based on English words

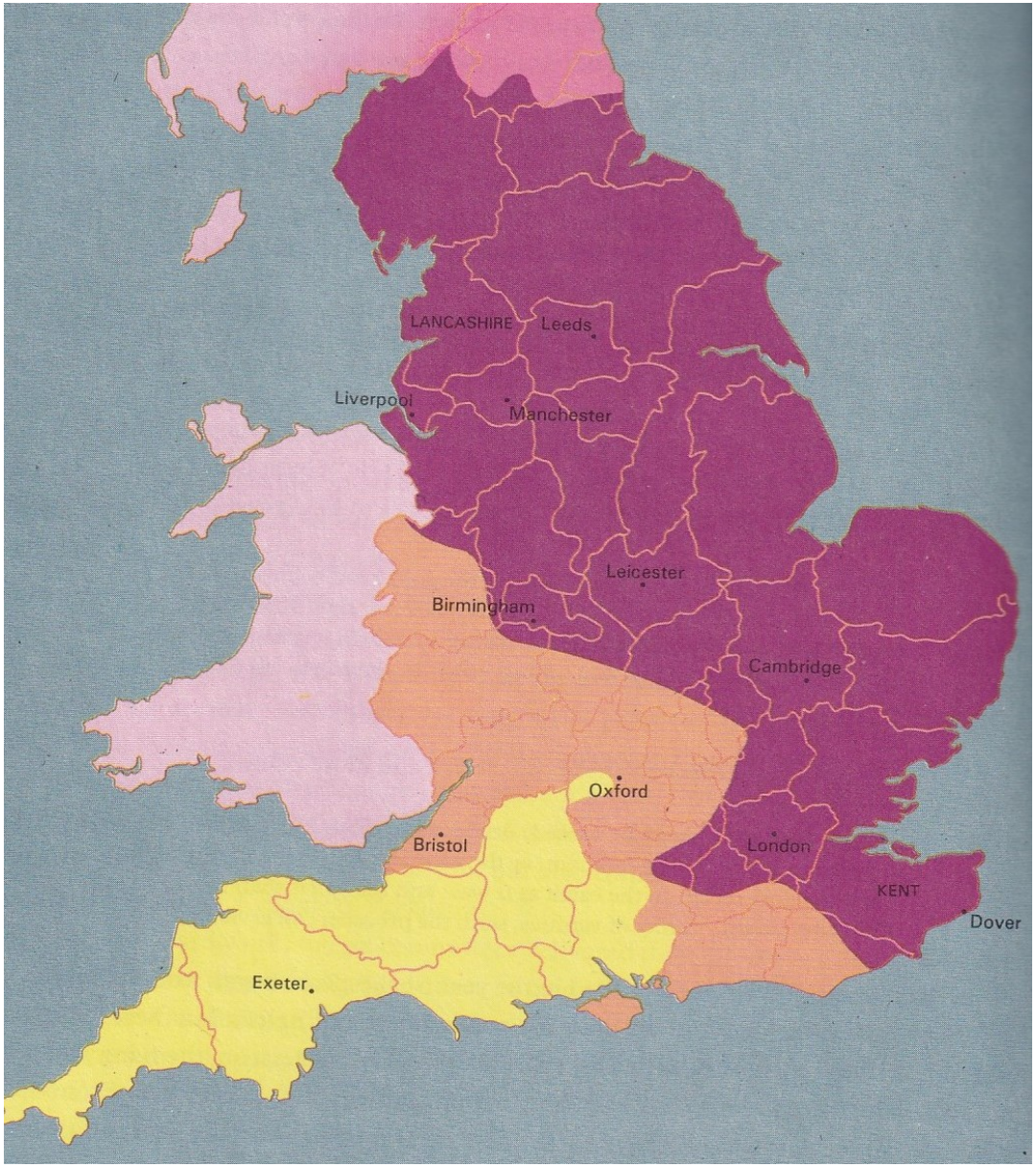
- **Fletcher: an arrow smith or seller of arrows**
- **Warren: someone who lived by a game park**
- **Gardiner: one who works in a garden (a cleared enclosure)**
- **Cook: a cook, a seller of cooked meats, or a inn keeper**
- **Fuller: a dresser of cloth**
- **Clark: "scribe", "secretary" or a scholar (an educated person)**
- **Turner: maker of objects of wood or bone by turning on a lath**
- **Tinker: a mender of pots and pans**
- **Carver: a carver of wood or a plowman**
- **Brewster: a brewer of beer or ale**

…….

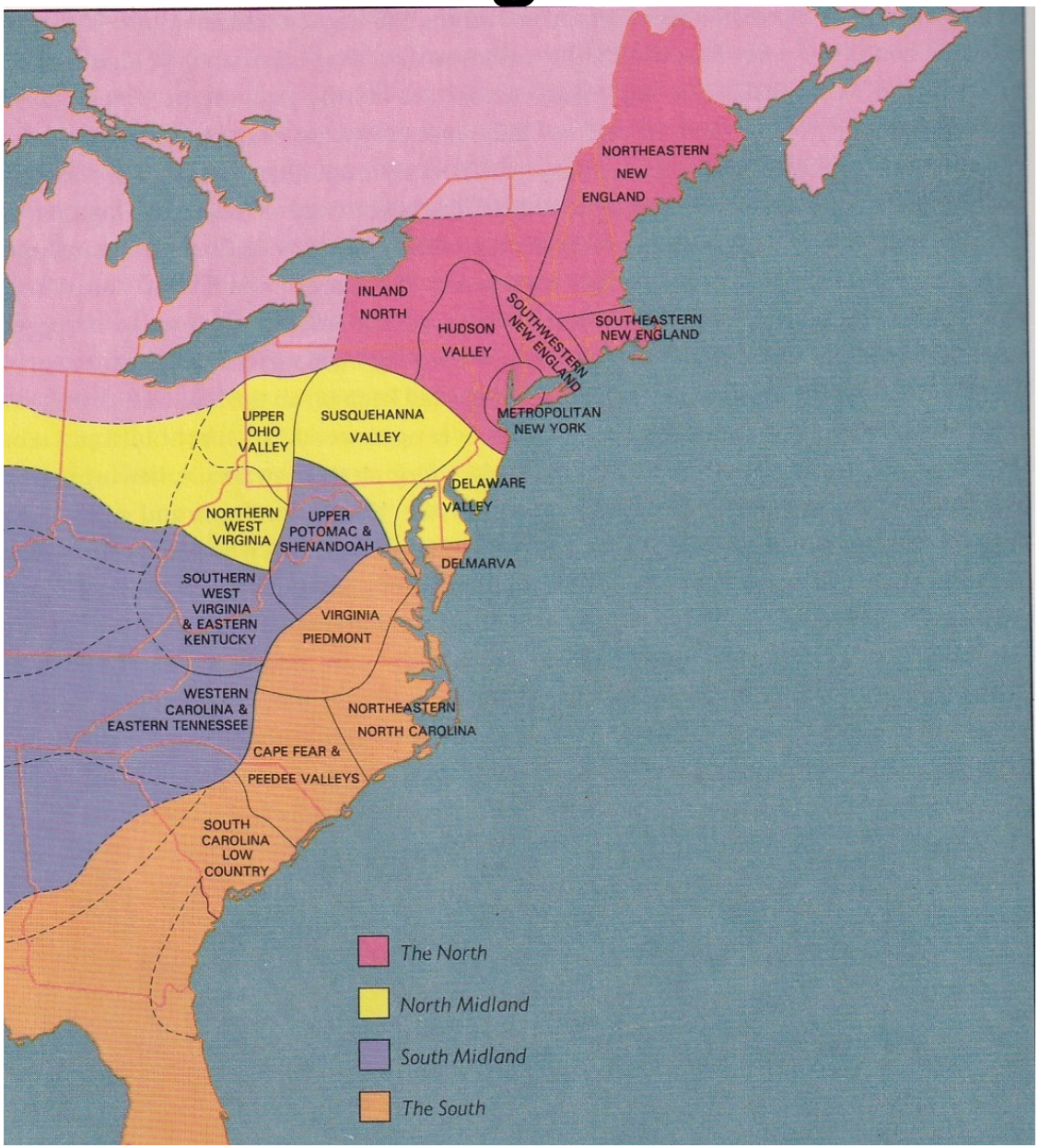
- **Bradford: broad ford (crossing) of the river**
- **12 place names**
- **4 son of: Margeson, Williams, Hopkins, Rogers**
- **5 common words: English, Priest, Goodman, White, Brown**

English Area That Drops the letter “R”

- Pilgrims moved to New England -



American English in 1776



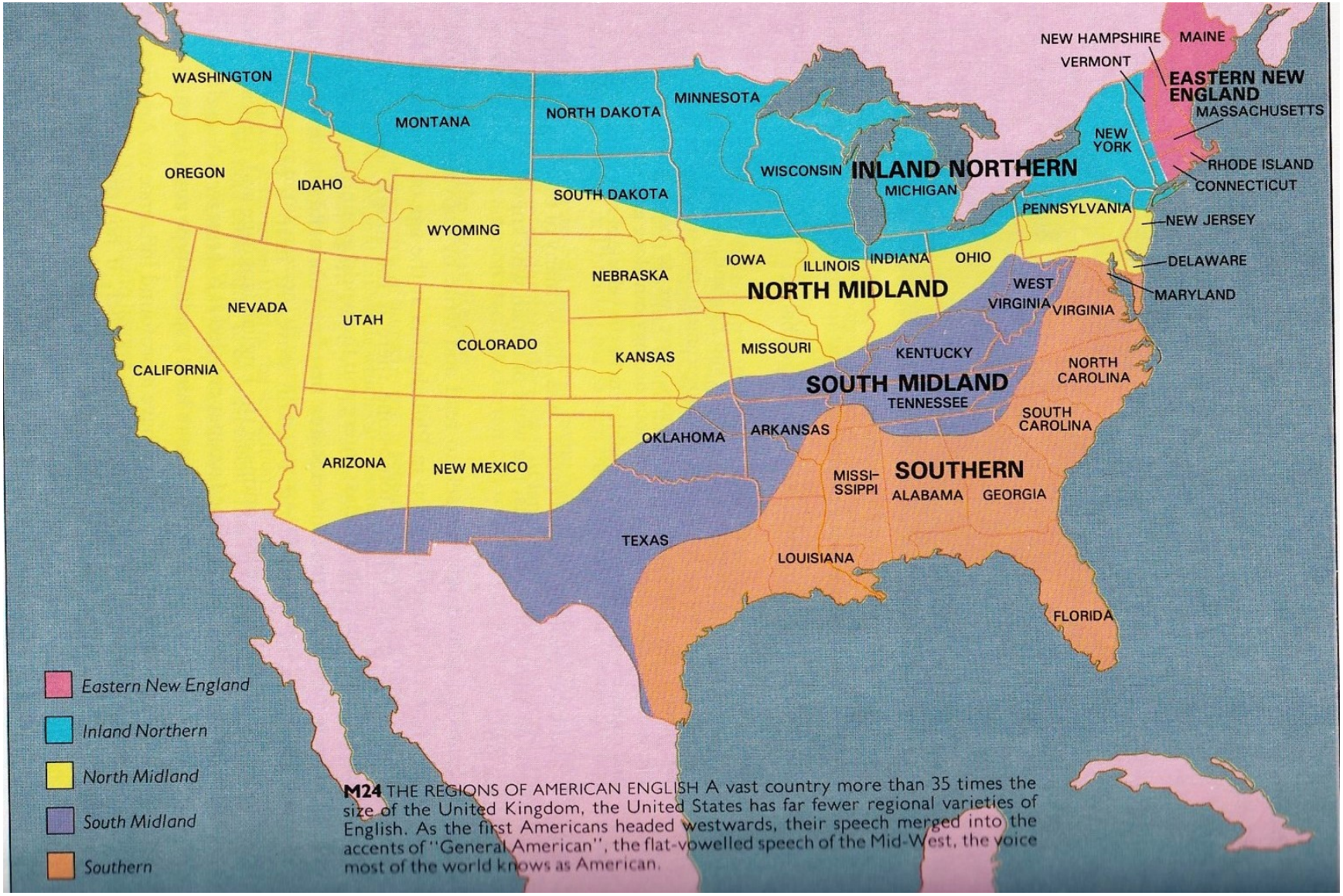
Declaration of Independence 1776

- 240 year old formal English, but easy to understand -

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

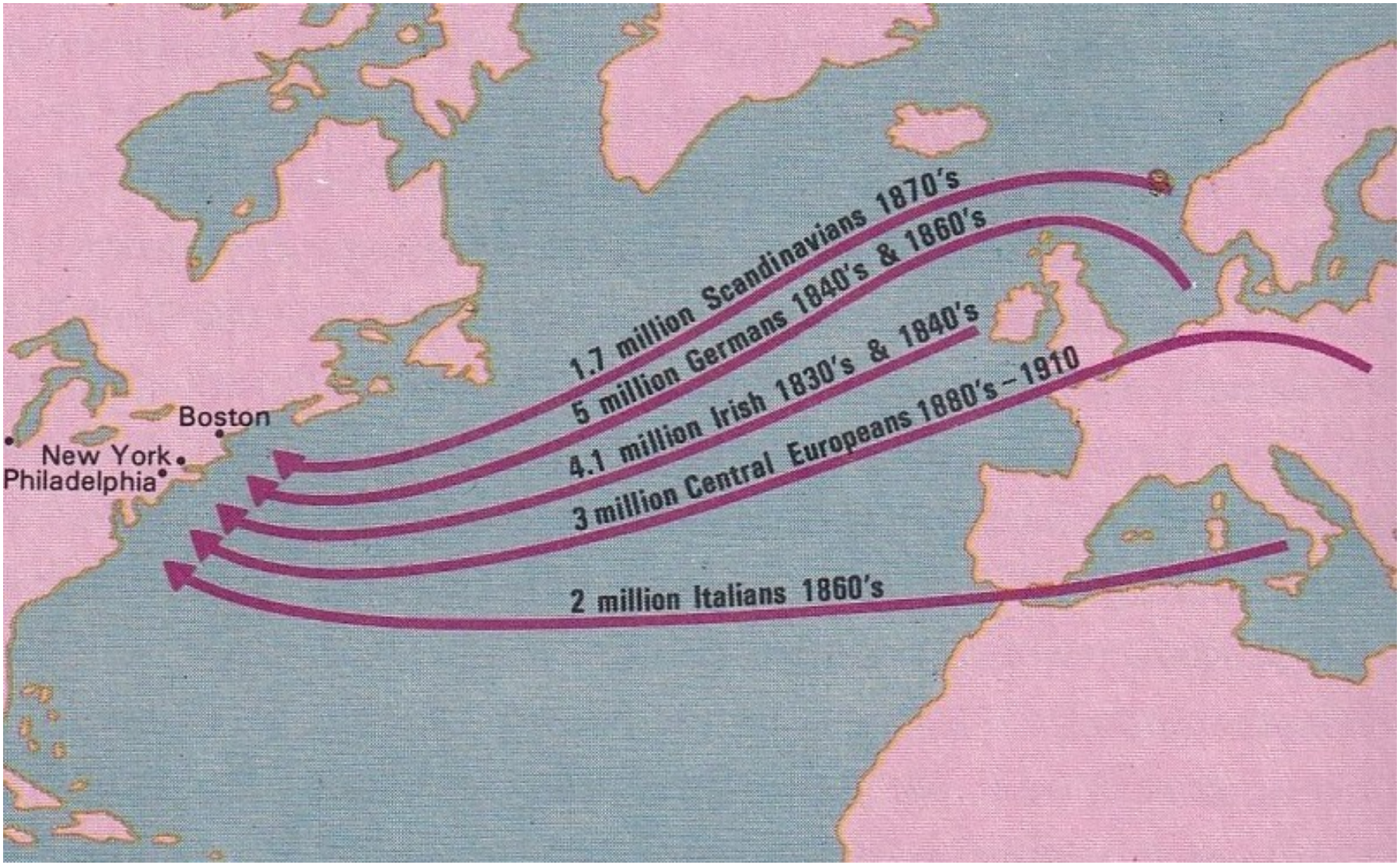
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

American English

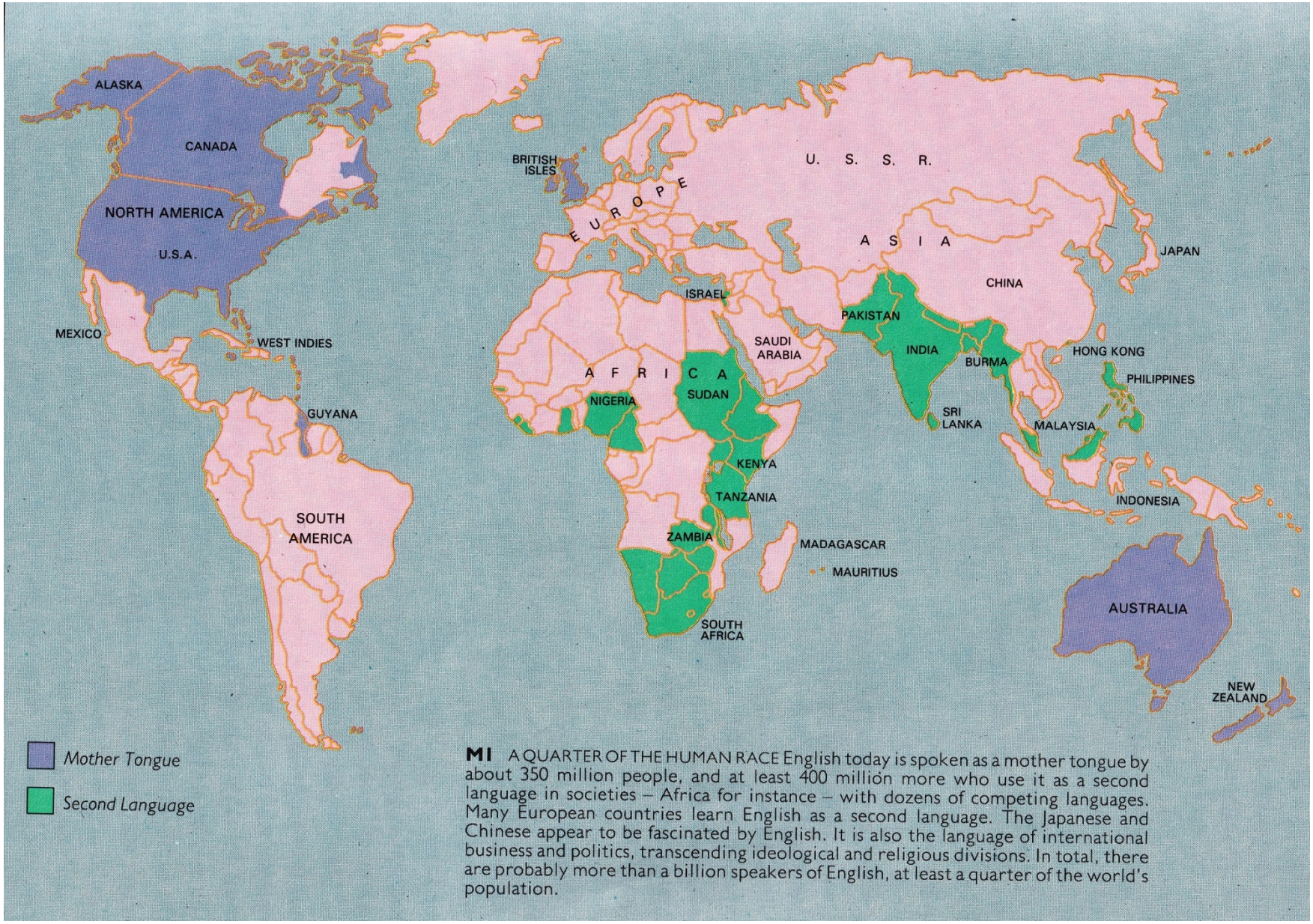


Later Migrations

- mostly non-English Speaking -



English around the World

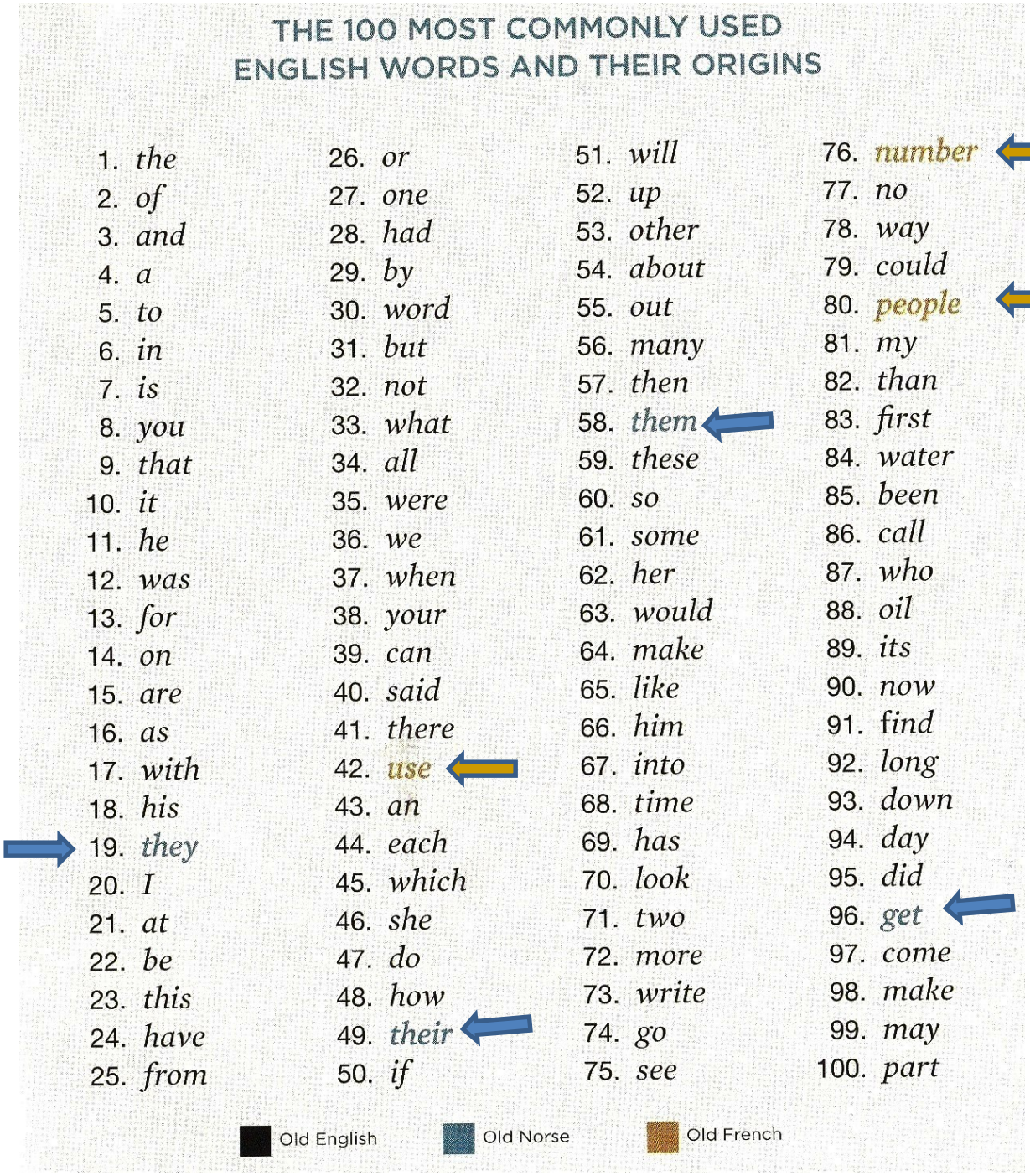


MI A QUARTER OF THE HUMAN RACE English today is spoken as a mother tongue by about 350 million people, and at least 400 million more who use it as a second language in societies – Africa for instance – with dozens of competing languages. Many European countries learn English as a second language. The Japanese and Chinese appear to be fascinated by English. It is also the language of international business and politics, transcending ideological and religious divisions. In total, there are probably more than a billion speakers of English, at least a quarter of the world's population.

Old English → Middle English → Modern English

It is estimated that up to 85% of Anglo-Saxon vocabulary was lost as a result of the Norman invasion

- But the German words that are left are still our basic vocabulary.



Origins

93 Old English

4 Old Norse

3 Old French

Winston Churchill: 1874 – 1965

- Speech: June 4, 1940 -

We shall fight on beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender

Headline 1950 AD

English: the world's second language

- 1950 AD: English becomes the world's 2nd language
  - 2000 AD: English is the language of the Internet
- Other "Englishes" have developed in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia
  - Are they dialects or new evolving languages

Videos for Sessions 6

- Turn on subtitles
  - Main Menu, Setup, Subtitles=ON
  - Back to Main Menu, then Scene Index

Total of about 35 minutes

Disk 4 Episode 8: 23 minutes

- Scene 1: English vs. American
- Scene 2: Influences on American English
- Scene 3: The Second World War

Ten Minute History of the English Language

The End